

## Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience



## PART 8 PLANNING REPORT

June 2021



## Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience

### PART 8 PLANNING REPORT

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## 1. PROJECT INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Main Purpose

The purpose of this report, in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Part 8, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), is to describe the nature and extent of the proposed development and principal features therein. Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) appointed ARUP/Nicholas de Jong Associates to prepare preliminary design proposals for the project in support of a funding bid to Fáilte Ireland's 'Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme' 2021.

The proposed scheme will involve the development of the 'Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience Project', which comprises upgrades to the public realm setting, new sheltered dining areas and street furniture at Bedford Row and Thomas Street, Limerick City.

The proposed works will include:

- i. The installation of covered pergola structures with retractable roofs and toughened glass screens along Bedford Row and Thomas Street to create sheltered outdoor areas for dining.
- ii. Additional lighting, planting, street furniture, water bottle refill stations, smart solar compacting bins, and
- iii. All necessary service, utility and ancillary site works.

### 1.2 The Fáilte Ireland 'Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme' 2021

#### 1.2.1 Aims of the Investment Scheme

As set out in the Fáilte Ireland 'Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme – Guidelines', the purpose of this initiative is to provide support to Local Authorities to implement remedial works, weatherproofing and infrastructure solutions to streets/zones where additional outdoor dining could be possible.

The primary focus of this investment scheme is on traditionally busy city/town centre locations, as it is considered that such focused investment efforts have the potential to generate the greatest impact on short-term employment opportunities and recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector. Local Authorities are invited to identify suitable locations and propose capital projects that are flexible, innovative and facilitate year-round use for outdoor dining. In particular, potential projects should respond to the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and support the recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector as well as being futureproofed, from a health and safety perspective and respect the needs and rights of all users of our streets and public spaces.

#### 1.2.2 Requirements of the Investment Scheme

The Investment Scheme will support projects that meet the following Minimum Eligibility criteria:

- Imaginative, creative designs are strongly encouraged under this Investment Scheme. Proposals are welcomed which demonstrate synergy with the Department of Tourism,

Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021, and other relevant schemes.

- Proposals must demonstrate a cultural and design led approach which meets Local Authority Planning Regulations, Public Health and Safety Guidance and ensures a quality design aesthetic led by best practice guidelines.
- The proposed project(s) must maximise the opportunity to strengthen the cultural identity of the city/town area for tourism impact.
- All projects in receipt of public funding are required to follow EU and national public procurement rules and procedures, where applicable. Applicants are also required to declare in the application form that they have endeavoured to ensure value for money, and that they have reviewed the OGP Information Note and are satisfied that the expenditure incurred and included in their application has been procured in line with same.
- Eligible projects must have a lifespan of 5 years or more.
- Management and maintenance of the proposed project(s) will be the responsibility of the Local Authority.
- Local Authorities agree to provide baseline and ongoing performance statistics to Fáilte Ireland with regard to visitor numbers, footfall, promotion and engagement with the project for the next 5 years.
- Local Authorities own the material/project being grant aided and will undertake to maintain, service, store and protect.
- Local Authorities must be satisfied that they have the legal right to carry out the weatherproofing and outdoor dining works and to operate same for a minimum of 5 Years.
- Each application must be accompanied by a detailed estimate of total project costs (comprising eligible and ineligible project costs). This can be in the form of a detailed cost estimate from a qualified Quantity Surveyor/Construction Cost Consultant Copies of concept drawings, maps/plans and any other relevant technical documentation, if applicable.
- Applicants must ensure that all necessary statutory permissions and consents have been obtained prior to the commencement of any works. This includes, but is not confined to, obtaining planning permission.
- Successful applicants will be obliged to acknowledge Fáilte Ireland's grant assistance in all publicity material and a written acknowledgement in any reports/publications and promotional materials. A plaque acknowledging Fáilte Ireland's grant support will also need to be displayed in close proximity to the project area and it may be affixed to the infrastructure itself or upon the pavement.

### 1.2.3 Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure

- Proposed projects must be in a permanently pedestrianised or partially pedestrianised street/zone ideally with linkages to connected pedestrianised areas of traditionally high tourism footfall.
- The street/zone must contain a variety of businesses e.g., restaurants, pubs and cafes offering or with the potential to offer outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists. Where available space on pavements is limited, and potentially affects the ability of businesses to trade successfully, additional capacity can be facilitated with the proposed project.
- The street/zone should offer dining opportunities for both lunchtime and evenings.

- The street/zone must be in close proximity to visitor attractions, museums, galleries, hotels and other visitor accommodation.
- A minimum of three separate individual hospitality businesses should benefit from the proposed project. Fáilte Ireland requires letters of support from two such businesses to be submitted as part of the application process together with confirmation that all necessary statutory permissions and consents have been obtained prior to the commencement of any works. This includes, but is not confined to, obtaining planning permission.
- Local Authorities are invited to submit proposals for up to a maximum of two towns/cities within their Local Authority area. Separate applications will need to be completed for each location.

### 1.3 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2021

The Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience Project will be implemented in accordance with:

- Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Part 8, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 2021  
Licensing under Section 254 of the Act  
In respect of Article 201, ‘Appliances, apparatus and structures suitable for being licensed’:  
2. The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No 600 of 2001) are amended in article 201 by inserting after paragraph (b) the following paragraph:  
“(ba) Awnings, coverings, canopies, parasols, shades, windbreakers, heaters or other similar structure for the purpose of facilitating outdoor dining where tables and chairs are being provided under paragraph (b),”.
- PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (STREET FURNITURE FEES) REGULATIONS 2021  
Amendment of Part 1 of Schedule 12 to the Principal Regulations  
2. For the period up to and including 31 December 2021, Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001) is amended by the substitution in Column 2 – Licence Fee, of –  
“€0 per table” for “€125 per table”  
opposite the mention in Column 1 – Appliance, Apparatus or Structure, of –  
“(h) Tables and chairs outside a hotel, restaurant, public house or other establishment where food is sold for consumption on the premises”.
- PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT) (NO.3) REGULATIONS 2021  
2. In these Regulations “relevant period” means the period commencing on the making of these Regulations until 31 December 2021.  
3. Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 shall have effect during the relevant period as if, in column (1) under the heading Class 14, the following paragraph were inserted after paragraph (a):  
“(aa) from use for the sale of food for consumption on the premises to use for the sale of food for consumption off the premises.”.

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4. Where a premises is used during the relevant period for the sale of food for consumption off the premises in accordance with Article 3, then, upon the expiration of the relevant period -
  - (a) the premises may be used for the sale of food for consumption on the premises in accordance with the permission that applied in respect of that premises immediately before the commencement of the relevant period, and
  - (b) the use of the premises for the sale of food for consumption off the premises shall not be exempted development.

## 2. PLANNING CONTEXT

### 2.1 National Policy

The Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience proposals have been developed in the context of:

**Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework (NPF):** which includes objectives to support the development and growth of Limerick as a key urban centre in the Mid-West region and as a driver of national growth. The NPF also incorporates place-making policy priorities for Limerick City including public realm and urban amenity projects.

#### NSO 1 Compact Growth

The NPF recognises that in order to achieve compact development, we need to focus on the 'liveability' or quality of life of urban places – how people experience living in cities, towns and villages. This includes the quality of the built environment, including the public realm, traffic and parking issues, access to amenities and public transport and a sense of personal safety and well-being.

NPO 4: Ensure the creation of attractive, liveable, well-designed, high quality urban places that are home to diverse and integrated communities that enjoy a high quality of life and well-being.

### 2.2 Regional Policy

#### Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region, Project Ireland 2040

It is an objective of the Limerick-Shannon MASP (Policy Objective 17) to: 'Reposition Limerick City Centre at the top of the retail hierarchy by improving the range and quality of shopping on offer, enhanced customer experience of visiting the City Centre. A contemporary shopping offer with leisure – food, drink and entertainment at the heart of the experience. This can be achieved by radically improving the City Centre experience in the prime shopping area'.

Limerick-Shannon MASP Placemaking recognises initiatives such as investment in public realm will create a more attractive area to live, visit and invest. Place-making is seen as instrumental to attracting a high skilled workforce and thus ensuring the Region captures sufficient human capital and talent.

#### Policy Objective 21: Public Realm and Placemaking

*'It is an objective to deliver improvements in the public realm in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area to create more active and vibrant urban centres which are attractive as locations of choice to live, work and visit. Examples of projects which can strengthen placemaking and public realm in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan'.*

#### Mid-West Area Strategic Plan (MWASP) 2012-2030, Planning, Land Use and Transportation Strategy

The MWASP recognises that - 'The regeneration of the City, to include the public realm of the centre, must take priority to allow it to function as the economic driver for the region'.

Also in relation to Limerick City (3.3.3) – ‘*The City must be an attractive place to live, work and visit so that it can function as the focus of the region and it requires revitalisation to achieve this. Quality of life is essential and in cities it is derived from a range of components. These include: the availability of employment; access to social, cultural and amenity facilities; good public transport and a well-planned living environment, including public realm, which is fit for purpose’.*

### **The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)**

The strategy will be instrumental in the regeneration and transformation of the city by encouraging walking and cycling, linked to easier access for a broad range of ages and abilities, which will ensure liveliness and interaction on the streets, thereby increasing vibrancy and improving commercial and retail activity.

## **2.3 Local Policy**

### **Limerick City Development Plan (CDP), 2010|2016**

Goal 3 of the CDP is:

*‘To provide for a high quality natural and built environment and improved quality of life for those living and working in Limerick City and also for those visiting the City.*

*The attractiveness of the City is to a large degree dependent upon the quality and character of the environment – the buildings, the public realm, the amenity spaces and the natural heritage. A good quality environment is extremely important to the City for reasons of quality of life and economic prosperity’.*

Limerick City & County Council has formally commenced the preparation of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. The Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 will be the first combined plan for Limerick City and County since the merger of the two local authorities in 2014 and will set out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Limerick as a whole over a six-year period up to 2028.

### **Limerick 2030 - An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick, 2014**

The Plan emphasises that whilst much can be achieved by improved organisation, partnership between public and private sector and improved leadership, the renaissance of the City Centre will require a substantial investment in the built environment, the City’s infrastructure and its public realm –

*‘As a start Limerick needs to get the fundamentals in place around business, shopping and living opportunities. It needs better infrastructure and public realm to make it a ‘comfortable’ and ‘appealing’ City Centre’.*

In relation to Public Realm and Open Space (5.23), the Spatial Plan states:

*‘In recent years there has been a growing awareness across Europe of the importance of high-quality public spaces in generating footfall and creating value. For Limerick to succeed in attracting trade back from the out-of-centre competing schemes it must offer a much better and more diverse streetscape, encouraging use over a longer part of the day. Improvements have been made in recent years through the partial implementation of the public realm strategy, but it is now time for a rethink of this strategy in tandem with a reconsideration of the City Centre transport strategy, and with wider proposals for business, retail, leisure and tourism renewal’.*

### 3. NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

#### 3.1 The Existing Situation

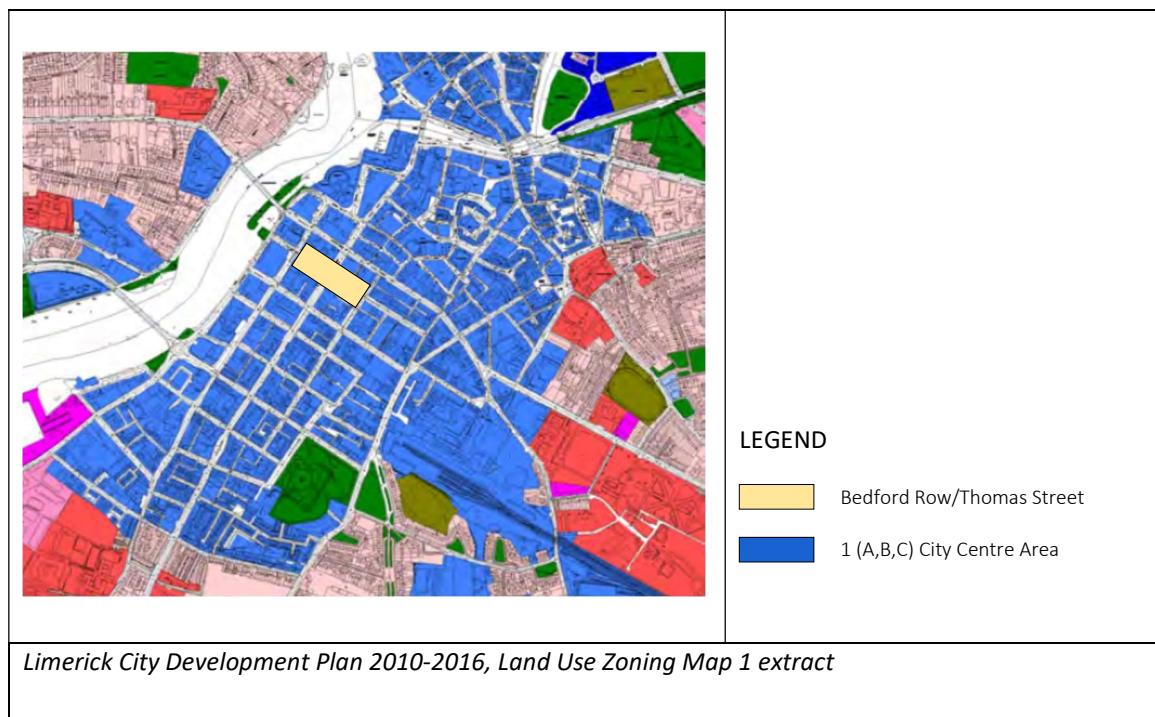
##### 3.1.1 Land Use Zoning

Bedford Row and Thomas Street are zoned in the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 as '1 (A,B,C) City Centre Area':

Zoning Objective 1

Objective ZO.1 City Centre Area (CCA)

'To support the retention and expansion of a wide range of commercial, cultural, leisure and residential uses in the City Centre as defined in the 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan'.



##### 3.1.2 Existing Streetscape

Bedford Row and Thomas Street are located at the heart of the City Centre Retail Area, extending either side of the primary commercial thoroughfare of O'Connell Street and forming a major pedestrian-priority spine connecting to the Shannon River and its associated visitor attractions. The two streets are in close proximity and easy walking distance to visitor attractions, museums, galleries, hotels and other visitor accommodation. They contain a variety of hospitality businesses, such as restaurants, pubs and cafes, with the potential to offer expanded outdoor dining with a broad appeal to locals and tourists, both at lunchtimes and in the evening.

The current up-grading of O'Connell Street as a shared-priority space will reinforce the pedestrian character of Thomas Street and Bedford Row and the pedestrian linkages between the key retail, commercial and visitor destinations of the City Centre. The intersection of Thomas Street/Bedford Row and O'Connell Street is planned to be reinforced with a major contemporary artwork that will signify the heart of the City Centre and strengthen its distinct sense of place.

**Bedford Row** extends from the junction with O'Connell Street westwards to the junction with Henry Street, and continues between Dunnes Stores and the Augustinian Church to Howley's Quay. It has seen extensive investment and redevelopment in the past few years, including the 5-star Savoy Hotel to the south side, and a former Methodist Church with the front façade retained to the north side. The street was pedestrianised in 2007, with provision for controlled service and emergency vehicles only exiting onto the O'Connell Street junction.

Bedford Row is lined with mostly independent shops along both sides and has four hospitality businesses – the Spit Jack Restaurant (forming the corner with Henry Street), the Buttery Restaurant and the Bedford Hotel/Café to the north side, and Supermacs to the south side (forming the corner with O'Connell Street). Both Spit Jacks and the Butterys have existing small outdoor eating areas and projecting awnings.

**Thomas Street** extends from the junction with O'Connell Street eastwards towards Wickham Street, and includes the midway junction of Catherine Street and Little Catherine Street. The laneways of Little William Street and Augustinian Lane extend from the lower part of Thomas Street, northwards and southwards respectively. Thomas Street was substantially up-graded in 2008, including partial pedestrianisation between O'Connell Street and Little William Street and pedestrian priority measures incorporating shared surface treatment between Little William Street and Catherine Street, and the widening of footpaths between Catherine Street and Wickham Street.

There are a variety of independent retail and refreshment uses along both sides of Thomas Street, including the side elevation of the Brown Thomas store. The Official Tourist Office occupies the southern corner building with O'Connell Street. There are currently eight hospitality businesses along the street, comprising – Mr. Noodle and Carlton Coffee to the north side, and Gloria Jean's Coffee, Noom Treats, the Still House public house, Sambro's Restaurant, Coqbull Restaurant and Habit Coffee to the north side. Most have existing small outdoor eating areas and projecting awnings. There are also four other recently vacant café/restaurant premises on the street.

Given the high proportion of existing hospitality businesses between Little William Street and Catherine Street, together with other outlets on Augustinian Lane and Little Catherine Street, the area is continuing to emerge as the 'Café Quarter' of Limerick.

### **3.1.3 Archaeology and Architectural Heritage**

#### ***Archaeology***

The area of the proposed development is outside the Zone of Archaeological Potential for Limerick City and thus is not impacted by the National Monuments Acts.

#### ***Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)***

The proposed development does not lie within an ACA.

#### ***Protected Structures***

Within the proposed area of development there are six buildings included on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). One of these is also a Recorded Protected Structure (RPS 337).

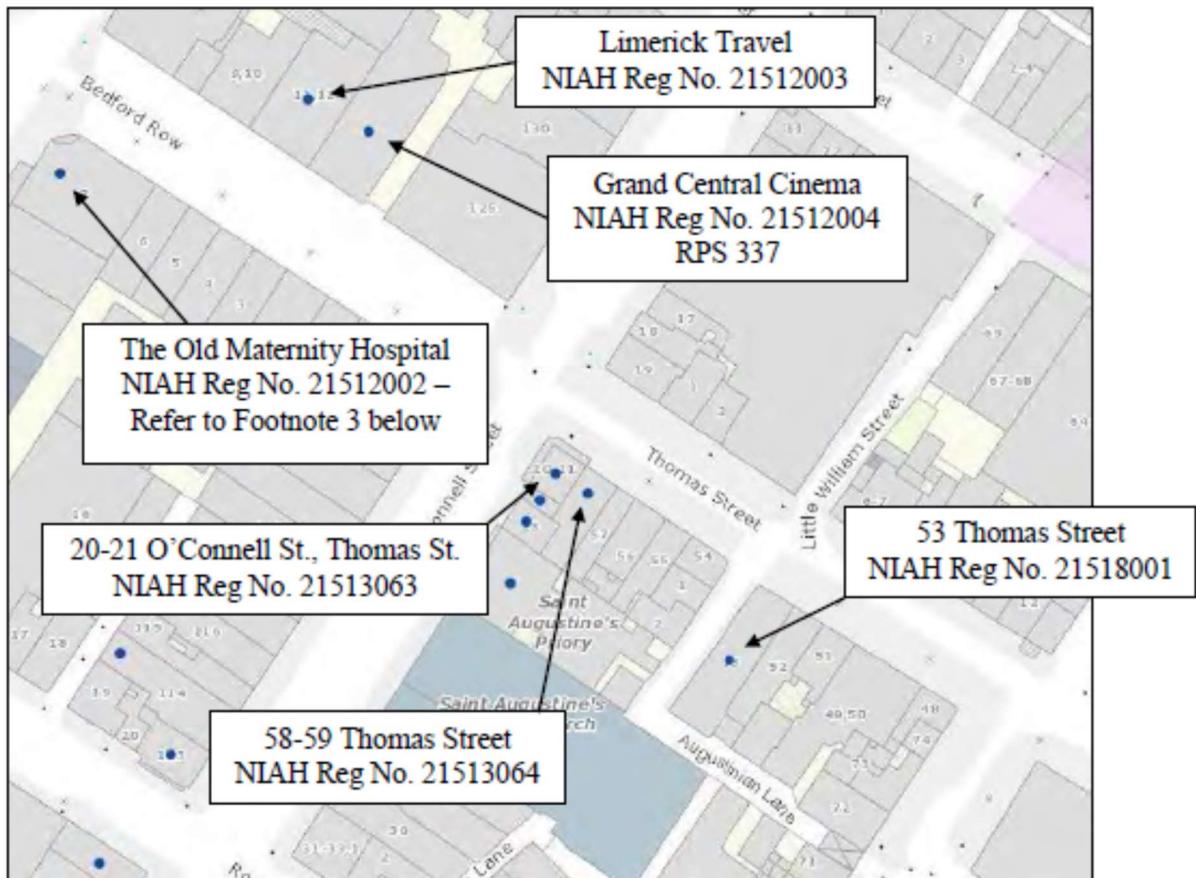
The building styles of Bedford Row are extremely varied and represent a mix of interventions over several decades. The heritage buildings of note comprise:

- Limerick Travel (NIAH Reg. No. 21512003) - Terraced four-bay four-storey building, built c. 1830, originally forming two two-bay houses, incorporated into the one composition with an Art Deco façade.
- Grand Central Cinema (NIAH Reg. No. 21512004, RPS 337) - Attached three-bay three-storey former cinema, façade built c. 1930, to the front of a former Methodist chapel, built c. 1820, with facade incorporated within newly refurbished development.

The building styles of Thomas Street are more consistent than Bedford Row, particularly to the south side where traditional four storey terrace buildings predominate (although greatly altered from their original form). The heritage buildings of note comprise:

- Fergusons, 20-21 O'Connell Street, Thomas Street (NIAH Reg. No. 21513063) - A well-maintained polychromatic brick building rising above the surrounding buildings and dominating this important corner site, with most of its external features intact. This structure forms a pleasing corner to this streetscape. (Now Official Tourist Office).
- Jeanswear, 58-59 Thomas Street (NIAH Reg. No. 21513064) - A modestly scaled and richly detailed polychromatic building which, along with Fergusons at Nos. 20-21 O'Connell Street, form a dramatic and architecturally interesting termination of two streetscapes.
- JRs in the City, 53 Thomas Street, Augustinian Lane (NIAH Reg. No. 21518001) - A quite large former granary building with a decorative street frontage. The fine stone masonry and gabled cornice makes this a formidable reminder of the area's industrial past.

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National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Map – Limerick City Centre

## 3.2 Development Proposals

### 3.2.1 Main Components

#### ***Weather Proofing Structures (Pergolas)***

- A series of self-supporting structures extending along the frontages of restaurants/cafes, offset from the building line by min. 100mm, and incorporating retractable roof and side shades, integrated lighting and optional attachments such as heaters and additional lighting.
- Galvanised mild steel construction, powder-coated finish, colour aluminium-grey (RAL 9007).
- Metered electrical/gas connections extending to the associated premises where required.
- Rainwater management integrated into the pergola with internal guttering system.
- Reinforced concrete foundations to Engineer's details.

#### ***Glazed Barriers***

- Proprietary toughened glass screens of varying heights (between 1m to 2m according to locational requirements), forming an enclosure and/or partitions within and around the pergolas.
- Signage and decals for individual premises limited to a standard style, size and position on barriers.
- Either root fixed, requiring a small foundation, or bolted to existing surface as situations require.

#### ***Planting Containers***

- Proprietary containers defining outer edges of pergola enclosures (containers only) and at intervals along the street (with integrated timber seats), enhancing the public space and place-making.
- Planted with shrubs (pollinator-friendly) and small multi-stem trees (e.g. Amalanchier), contributing to visual amenity and green infrastructure.

#### ***Smart Solar Compacting Bins (4no.)***

- Proprietary solar powered compacting waste storage unit with removable 120L wheelybin.
- Bolted to existing surface.

***Pedestrian Counter*** – proprietary type.

### 3.2.2 Architectural Impact

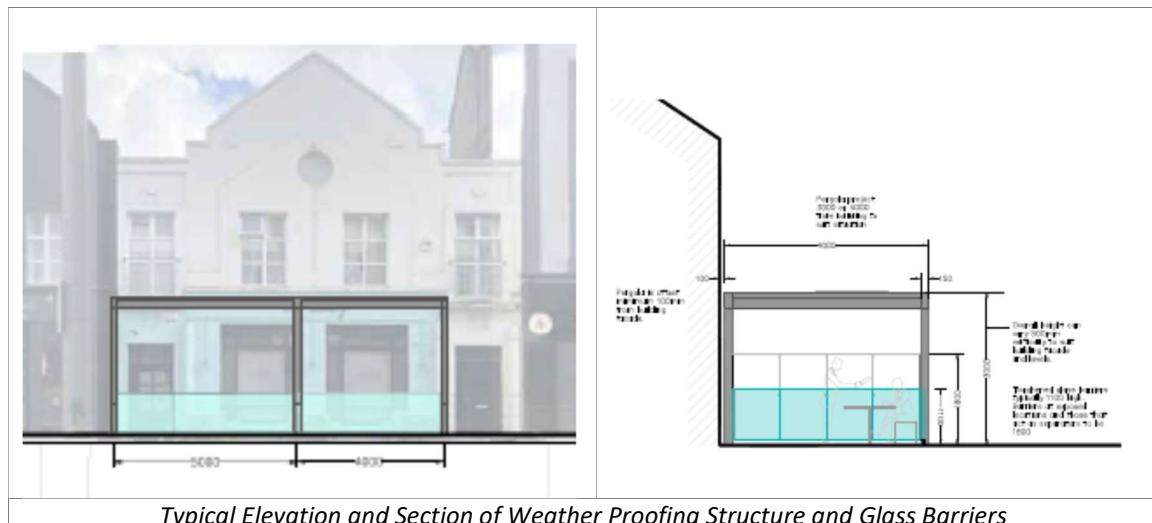
The design of the weather proofing structures has been carefully considered, both singly and collectively, to minimise any adverse visual impacts on the streetscapes of the City Centre, through the selection of a simple rectangular form that respects the varied building elevations.

The weather proofing structures and glass barriers are located at unequal spacings along each street, according to the presence of existing cafes/restaurants, thereby avoiding continuous lengths of uninterrupted structures that could dominate the character of the streetscene. In certain locations, the proposed additions will enhance the appearance of otherwise bland or featureless facades.

The structures are self-supporting and off-set from the building line so that there will be no physical impact on the associated frontages. Rainwater management is integrated into the structure with an internal guttering system to be connected to the existing surface water drainage network.

Business signage and decals will be minimal and to a standardised format on surrounding glazed barriers or to the front of the pergolas.

All necessary power connections for the weather proofing structures (electricity/gas) will be to adjacent properties via a single hidden duct (to Engineer's details), with the owner's prior consent.



The Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment Report<sup>1</sup> on the proposed development concludes that – *'the proposed works have very little direct/physical impact on the associated historic structures. The proposed works will hopefully enhance the streetscape and provide added benefit to local businesses and people without compromising the character of the associated historic fabric'.*

To ensure that the proposed works will have as minimal impact as possible on the associated historic structures, suggested mitigation measures are outlined in the Report as follows:

1. Black and White Archival Photographic Record- to be carried out of the associated historic structures front facades before, during and after the works.

<sup>1</sup> Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment Report, For Proposed Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience, ACP Architectural Conservation Professionals, May 2021

2. High resolution digital photographs are to be taken on a regular and ongoing basis for the duration of the works and a detailed description of the works undertaken be kept and complied.
3. Any protected fabric scheduled for removal shall be 'Retained by Record' to ICOMOS standard.
4. The interface between the Covered Pergola structure and the associated historic structures is to be agreed in advance with the Conservation Building Surveyor to ensure minimal impact to the historic fabric.
5. Specifications, plans, and method statements prepared by the Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor are to be read and adhered to by the contractor, staff and all involved with the proposed works.
6. All works on site are to be supervised on an ongoing basis by the Project Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor (Accredited by the RICS and SCSI). A detailed record of works is to be kept and complied for submission to the building record after proposed works have been completed.

### **3.2.3 Stakeholder Consent**

All necessary consents have been obtained from relevant stakeholders associated with the proposed outdoor dining structures.

It is intended that each stakeholder will enter into a licence agreement with LCCC prior to the commencement of any works on the ongoing operation and management of structures adjoining their individual premises.

## 4. SCHEME IMPACTS

### 4.1 Anticipated Benefits

The Outdoor Dining Experience Project is anticipated to have far-reaching benefits for Limerick City, including:

- Supporting the growing trend for additional outdoor dining options, as demonstrated by other urban centres recovering from the effects of Covid-19.
- Encouraging life back into the principal retail streets of the City Centre.
- Reinforcing the pedestrianised sections of Bedford Row and Thomas Street as safe, welcoming, vibrant places in order to help support economic recovery.
- Facilitating year-round outdoor dining for the benefit of promoting tourism, whilst meeting the needs of all citizens.
- The focused investment is expected to generate high impact on short-term employment opportunities and recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector.
- At least 12 separate individual hospitality businesses will benefit from the proposed project.
- The proposals for Bedford Row and Thomas Street demonstrate a cultural and design led approach which meets Local Authority Planning Regulations, Public Health and Safety Guidance and ensures a quality design aesthetic led by best practice guidelines.
- The proposed project maximises the opportunity to strengthen the cultural identity of the City Centre by building-upon the attraction of the pedestrianised streets and creating a sense of place focussed around local tourism and hospitality businesses.
- The proposals will support the Limerick-Shannon MASP objectives by contributing towards an enhanced customer experience of visiting the City Centre, with food, drink and entertainment at the heart of the experience.
- Delivery of the Outdoor Dining Experience Project will complement the place-making objectives of National, Regional and Local planning policy by encouraging a more comfortable and appealing City Centre.
- The characteristics of the proposed development are not considered likely to result in a significant impact on the environment by virtue of its size, nature, or operational activities.

## 4.2 Overview of Environmental Impacts

### 4.2.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report<sup>2</sup>

#### 5.1 Screening Determination

The proposed development for the interventions proposed as part of the Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience Project which is now under the ownership of Limerick City and County Council and is situated on Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane does not trigger the threshold for mandatory EIA/EIAR and has been assessed as a sub-threshold EIA development.

Article 4(5) of the EIA Directive states:

The competent authority shall make its determination, on the basis of information provided by the developer in accordance with paragraph 4 taking into account, where relevant, the results of preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to Union legislation other than this Directive.

The determination shall be made available to the public and:

- a) where it is decided that an environmental impact assessment is required, state the main reasons for requiring such assessment with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III; or
- b) where it is decided that an environmental impact assessment is not required, state the main reasons for not requiring such assessment with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III, and, where proposed by the developer, state any features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.

This EIS Screening Report has concluded that the effects of the proposed development are not identified as giving rise to significant negative effects on the environment, due to the scale, nature, location and design of the proposed development.

The implementation of the standard environmental management practices will also provide safeguards in relation to potential impacts identified in the preceding tables, which are identified as temporary and minor in nature.

Given the scale and nature of the project and taking account of all available information, the overall probability of impacts on the receiving environment arising from the proposed development is considered to be low to negligible.

The information provided in this EIA Screening Report can be used by the competent authority Limerick City and County Council to conclude and determine that an EIA is not required for the proposed project as there will be no significant negative effects.

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<sup>2</sup> EIA Screening Report for Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience, MEC Ltd, May 20210

#### **4.2.2 Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment<sup>3</sup>**

##### **Conclusion**

During the preparation of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment of the proposed outdoor dining experience in Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane, Limerick City it was found that 6 European Sites were within a 15km radius of the project site. Two European Sites, the Lower River Shannon and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA were identified as occurring within the same surface water catchment as the project site. An examination of the projects potential to result in pollution to the Shannon catchment and resultant impacts to water quality was completed as part of this screening exercise. This was based on an examination of the project's potential to undermine the water quality status of the River Shannon or groundwater baseflows that eventually discharge to the Shannon catchment. It has been found for the reasons set out in Section Three above that the project will not have the potential to result in negative impacts to the water quality of the Lower River Shannon SAC and will not perturb the conservation status of qualifying habitats, species or special conservation interests of the Lower River Shannon SAC or the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA.

In light of the findings of this report it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by Limerick City and County Council that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

#### **4.2.3 Waste**

- During construction, the proposed development will generate a small amount of typical construction waste. This will be disposed of following best practice guidance implemented by operating plans to be devised by the appointed contractor.
- Once operational, the proposed development will not produce waste.

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<sup>3</sup> Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment, Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience, MEC Ltd, May 2021