

A Limerick District Reborn

A better place to shop, relax and enjoy

City spine of Thomas Street, Catherine Street, Fox's Bow, Bedford Row and Erson's Lane benefit from new €10m re-modelling.

Limerick City Centre has seen a major transformation over recent years enhancing its reputation as a vibrant and progressive city. Much of this transformation has been centred on major public expenditure in upgrading the public realm which has prompted significant private sector investment in a number of landmark developments around the city as well as refurbishment of existing buildings. The major public realm upgrade works recently completed involved the transformation of the city centre spine from Harvey's Quay up to Wickham Street which was delivered in three phases:

1. Bedford Row in 2006
2. Thomas Street / Little Catherine Street in 2007
3. Thomas Street / Catherine Street and Fox's Bow in 2008

The total cost of delivering

the above projects has been in excess of €10 million. As construction works on phase 3 are nearing completion, the full impact of the latest

The main purpose of the project was to create a pedestrian-friendly environment that encourages people to spend more time in and to

“The main purpose of the project was to create a pedestrian-friendly environment that encourages people to spend more time in and to enjoy the City Centre.”

City Centre street re-modelling for the Thomas Street, Catherine Street, Fox's Bow and Erson's Lane contract can now be fully appreciated and its impact on the transformation of the city centre with that of the previous phases can now be seen.

enjoy the City Centre. The improvements scheme extends the pedestrian-friendly character of Thomas Street (lower) and Bedford Row up to Wickham Street. Expansive footpaths of high quality paving materials, new street lights, trees and street furniture combine to



give a fresh contemporary approach that reinforces the role of the area as one of the prime shopping destinations of the City Centre. The environment has been further enhanced by the traders who have created attractive outdoor eating areas. The provision of new Christmas lights on the street by the Limerick City Business Association has created a very pleasant evening time environment for the Christmas period. This work represents a major element of the ambitious City Centre Strategy which aims to transform the streets and open spaces of the City Centre for the benefit of Limerick residents, traders, business people and visitors.

Visitors by car to the city

centre will already be aware of the new traffic layouts. Traffic is now one way along Catherine Street and much of Thomas Street, with a noticeable reduction in traffic speed, becoming two-way between Anne Street and Wickham Street. Fox's Bow is pedestrianised, with access restricted to delivery vehicles during controlled times. By significantly reducing the influences of vehicles, the streets have now become spaces - where people can safely stroll, window shop, eat, drink and pass the time of day. On-street parking has been removed from this part of the city centre but there is still an abundance of off-street parking available just off the main streets in the Anne Street, Harvey's

Visitors to the streets will notice many stylish improvements, making Limerick's City centre a much more enjoyable experience.



Quay and Howley's Quay multi-storey carparks. It is now noticeable that the parked car outside the shop fronts has been replaced by the more vibrant sight of people eating outdoors at tables in front of the many fine cafes, bar and restaurants that are located on the street.





Works completed just in time for Christmas shoppers

All three contracts including the most recent €3.5m contract were awarded to John Craddock Ltd. The works have progressed on schedule for completion in advance of the peak Christmas shopping period. In addition to surface level improvements, the works have included extensive renewal of essential services, under-grounding of numerous cables and, where necessary for structural purposes, decommissioning of basements and lightwells. The design and project management for the projects were provided by three Limerick City based



Limerick City Council who was Senior Engineer for the delivery of the project is very satisfied with the outcome of the works and stresses that it could not have been achieved

have co-operated throughout the process through regular consultations with Limerick City, the Design Team and the Contractors. The final street layouts are a result of the many hours of consultation between the design team and the traders and while many compromises had to be made by individual traders for the benefit of the whole street I hope they are now all pleased with the final product." he says.

In addition to the investment in the new streetscape by Limerick City Council the area has since seen considerable investment from the private sector, including most recently the impressive redevelopment of the Thomas Street Centre, the opening of the

Cornstore Restaurant and Goldmine Jewellery, and a modern new shop front to Tadgh Kearney Jewellers. In addition to this a lot of business owners along the street have carried out significant upgrading of their premises and shopfronts. The benefits of this ongoing renewal of the area can be clearly seen from the increased vitality on the streets and a renewed pride in the environment. The transformation of Thomas Street is fully complimented by the

O'Callaghan Strands. Limerick City Council hopes to commence work next year on the next phases of their City Centre re-modelling which should see work commence on the inner-orbital route that will facilitate the upgrading of William Street and O'Connell Street.

"The overall success of this project is dependent on all users working together with the council to ensure that it operates as intended and that users

on the street," said Vincent Murray.

thanks

"Limerick City Council would like to thank all parties involved in this transformation of Thomas Street and particularly thank the traders and business people for their cooperation and patience during the works. Particular thanks is due to shoppers and people visiting the street during the works whose continued support was vital for business during

"The final street layouts are a result of the many hours of consultation between the design team and the traders ..."

companies, White Young Green consulting Engineers, Nicholas De Jong Landscape Designers and Lawlor and Partners Project Management. Vincent Murray of

without the excellent cooperation that he and his team received from the business owners, traders and residents of the street. "Despite the inevitable disruptions, the traders



major new development down on Bedford Row by Fordmount.

Regular visitors to the city centre will also have been aware of other public realm developments including the complete upgrading of Clancy and

comply with traffic and other regulations. Limerick City council intends to protect its investment in this street with a regular maintenance program and everyone can play a part in this by not illegally parking or throwing litter

this period. The works are now complete; Thomas Street, Catherine Street and Fox's Bow are fully open again for business. These streets look great and we hope you can visit them in the run up to Christmas," said Mr. Murray.