

# Press Releases - QBC Plan A recipe for Disaster for Cabinteely & Cornelscourt

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**July 4th, 2000 According to Councillor Eoin Costello the current proposals from the Council for works in Cornelscourt and Cabinteely villages in conjunction with the Foxrock to Bray Bus Priority Measures are a recipe for disaster for residents and local businesses. Under the Foxrock to Bray Bus Priority Measures the Council proposes to turn the hard shoulder of the N11 into a QBC. In conjunction with this Cornelscourt and Cabinteely will have some street-scaping work done, the main objective of which is to provide more parking spaces for the QBC.**

According to Councillor Costello this approach is deeply flawed. "The QBC running from Foxrock Church to Bray is going to lead to a substantial increase in the number of commuters needing car parking spaces, particularly in the Cabinteely and Cornelscourt area. However the Council have taken no action to make any real provision for this substantial parking requirement. Their current proposals will simply turn Cabinteely and Cornelscourt into glorified car parks to facilitate the QBC."

According to the Council Report (QBC Foxrock to Bray, 3 July) the Council are "examining the possibility of providing further parking in the vicinity of Cornelscourt and Cabinteely". According to Councillor Costello while time is spent "examining" park and ride facilities they propose to plough on with the QBC work regardless of the parking problems it will create. This is a classic case of putting the cart before the horse. The only work the Council have done on the Park & Ride facilities to support the QBC is to identify 15 potential sites along the route, many of which would not be practical to use for park and ride facilities due to the purchase cost.

During the Public Consultation on the Bus Priority Measures carried out by the Council, the council received 22 submissions from residents of the Cornelscourt/Cabinteely area. Of the 22 received 50%(11 residents) stated they were against QBC's unless they were accompanied by a commensurate provision of Park & Ride facilities. Of the 22 submissions received from residents 10 said that the area already suffers from a significant parking problem. Under the plans the Council wishes to proceed with there are virtually no additional parking provided for the QBC's.

"In my opinion the current scheme is a classic example of wrong headedness, the Manager's view is let's plough on with the scheme that we have funding for and let's worry about the huge problems it will create tomorrow. Surely that is why Councillors are in the Council chamber, to point out the error of such an approach. Councillors and residents also want to know why the Council made an application to the DTO for full funding of the QBC route and improvements but did not make any application for the funding of Park & Ride facilities to accompany the QBC route. This alone illustrates a lack of foresight and concern for the well documented problems QBC's have caused throughout Dublin."

According to Councillor Costello in the coming years the parking problem in the Cornelscourt and Cabinteely area will become even more acute for the following reasons;

1. The proposals contained in the Buchanan report on parking in the County is likely to displace large numbers of commuters from their usual parking places near Dart stations. When the charges proposed in the Buchanan report come into effect across the County, parking for free in residential areas to use the QBC will become even more common.
2. There will be huge residential growth in the immediate vicinity of Cabinteely and Cornelscourt due to large housing developments proposed for the Brennanstown Road and Carrickmines area.
3. It is likely that, as Stepside becomes increasingly congested with the huge developments planned for that area, residents will take the back route to Cabinteely to get the QBC into town. There is little likelihood of seeing the Luas serving that area's residents in the foreseeable future.

All the above factors are further exacerbated by the continuing and substantial growth of Bank of Ireland's operations in Cabinteely village.

At the moment the Council are proposing to proceed with putting the QBC improvement scheme out to tender. In other areas where QBC's have been installed there has been a dramatic increase in all day parking in residential areas and church car parks. This has led to a great deal of hardship for many people who cannot get in or out of their houses. As Foxrock Church found, the huge numbers of

commuters using church grounds each day has left church authorities with no alternative but to close off church car parks to the public to protect their spaces for church users.

Other specific problems identified by Cornelscourt and Cabinteely residents in the Public Consultation process in the Council's plans included;

- The plans provide for parking outside Cabinteely church, which is already a bottleneck.
- The provision of more parking spaces in Cabinteely village where residents and local businesses alike are already choked by the amount of current parking.
- No plan for the section of ground outside Roe's Monumental Works in Cornelscourt village. Many residents felt that this litter-strewn area is a danger to people walking home at night and would like to see the scrub cleared and the area utilised for parking.

Many traffic organisations have pointed out that the implementation of QBC's without Park & Ride sites is the wrong approach. In a press release issued in the wake of the implementation of the Donnybrook Stillorgan QBC the AA stated;

"The following components need to be put in place before the QBC is allowed to operate

- Park & Ride sites to enable existing car users to access the new public transport. There are none on the Bray Road."

All the signs for residents of Cornelscourt and Cabinteely are ominous. In the two years since the Stillorgan QBC opened there has been no significant provision of Park & Ride facilities with residential neighborhoods and churches bearing the brunt of this lack of provision.

According to Councillor Costello the Council want to move forward to the contract stage on the Foxrock to Bray Priority measures. According to the Manager the funding provided for these works must be drawn down as soon as possible. According to Councillor Costello this is not sufficient justification for proceeding with a flawed scheme.

" All too often the Council has proceeded with haste on flawed schemes such as the Avondale road calming, which is going to cost the Council £300,000 to put right, or the mess made of Wyattville Road where roundabouts and speed humps were built only to be dug up a month later as they had all been placed in the wrong place. In all these cases the concerns of residents were disregarded."

According to Councillor Costello "What is most damning is that at the Dun Laoghaire Area committee (3 July) the manager admitted that the Council is not confident that it will not be able to provide a sufficiently large scale Park & Ride facility at any point along the proposed QBC to accommodate the parking requirements generated by the QBC. Accordingly they are hoping to provide a string of small facilities at some stage in the future".

The Council are tying the long needed village improvements in Cornelscourt and Cabinteely to their acceptance of the Foxrock to Bray bus priority measures. Residents are delighted that Cornelscourt & Cabinteely will be getting much needed renovation however many feel that the price is too great. This renewal work is tied to the villages accepting the QBC work and all that it brings. The purpose of the bus priority measures is to provide an attractive alternative to the car. Surely this means providing people with somewhere to park when they use the QBC's.

"If people think that things are bad now, I shudder to think what the parking situation is going to be like in the Cabinteely and Cornelscourt area when the QBC is fully operational. The residents have made their views known to the Council where 50% of them rejected the QBC plans for Cornelscourt and Cabinteely unless there is a commensurate provision of

Park & Ride facilities. On behalf of the residents I have objected to any move to progress this plan without first putting in place essential Park and Ride facilities.