



Following engagement and review of the traffic situation on Rathdrum Main Street, Arklow Municipal District commissioned a traffic management study,

Rathdrum currently experiences ongoing difficulties on the Main Street, with narrow existing carriageway widths and frequent on-street car parking block both traffic movements and pedestrian movements.

The traffic management study looked at traffic volumes and junction turning counts along with a parking survey.

Four potential options were examined to address the issues identified within Rathdrum: -

- Option 1 – Extend Parking Restrictions on Main Street.
- Option 2 – Extend Parking Restrictions on Main Street and Increase Size of Lower Street Car Park.
- Option 3 – One Way System Southbound; and
- Option 4 – One Way System Southbound with Improved Public Space.

Options 1 & 2

Options 1 & 2 removed parking on the Main Street and allowed for 2-way traffic. However, due to the demand for short term parking, there would likely be an increase in illegal parking. Without appropriate enforcement, the issues currently experienced in the town would not be resolved.

Option 3 & 4

Options 3 & 4 propose a one-way system with parking provided and a southbound direction (from Lower Street to Market Square) is recommended. This directional recommendation is primarily based on comparing the challenges at the Lower Street junction with Main Street; against the enhanced junction at Saville's Cross. An additional analysis of the southbound one-way system has identified that, with the redirected traffic flows, all impacted junctions continue to operate well with spare capacity and minimal queuing. Option 3 is implemented in Phase 1 with the improved public space of Option 4 implemented in Phase 2.

Parking

The parking survey undertaken demonstrated that that a maximum of 39 vehicles were parked on the Main Street but 90% of those vehicles were illegally parked (half on the footpath, half on the carriageway). It also showed that 50% of the parking had a duration of 30 minutes or less and 76% of the parking had a duration of less than 2 hours. To facilitate the parking needs, parking has been provided on both sides of the street to accommodate businesses with a total of 12 spaces and one disabled space proposed.

The parking survey also demonstrated that in the Lower Street carpark, within a 5-minute walk of the town centre, 50% of the spaces were available throughout the day.

The proposed scheme shall alleviate the traffic constraints currently experienced while improving the pedestrian facilities throughout the Main Street.