

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

OCSC was commissioned by the Wexford County Council to conduct a pedestrianisation study on a section within central New Ross Town. The Council is considering the future direction of the town with a renewed emphasis on accessibility, safety, attractiveness, and pedestrian-friendly environments. One of the means by which this will be achieved, which this study investigated, is the pedestrianisation of certain streets in the town centre, whilst avoiding significant negative traffic impacts.

This study aims to determine the feasibility of implementing pedestrianisation in central New Ross Town. The possible roads earmarked for this is Quay Street, South Street (N) (section north of Charles Street) and South Street (S) (section south of Charles Street).

Closing various combinations of these three streets leads to a possible six different options. Of these six options, it was determined that only three options were implementable, with only two of these three being feasible. These options are the closure of South Street (N) and the closure of Quay Street.

Following this finding, junction surveys were conducted at certain identified locations. Closure of these roads will lead to a redistribution of traffic based on available routes. The redistributed traffic was analysed using traffic modelling software to determine the traffic impact of the two options.

There is potential that the closure of South Street (N) could lead to capacity problems at the junction between the R723 & Quay Street in the future. No other capacity problems were identified at any of the other assessed junctions.

Based on this study, it was determined that both the pedestrianisation of Quay Street and South Street (N) are plausible with acceptable traffic impacts. This means that other factors should be considered before implementation, such as:

- Businesses affected;
- Available parking affected;
- Public opinion.