

29th January 2013

Measures announced to alleviate traffic delays around Blackthorn Road, Sandyford

Measures are being undertaken immediately to improve traffic flows around Blackthorn Road and Blackthorn Avenue in the Sandyford Business District where motorists have experienced considerable delays during evening rush hours following the introduction of the new two way arrangement in the area.

The change was part of a necessary wider series of measures introduced to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists and to increase general accessibility for drivers into and around the Sandyford Business District. In general the community in Sandyford has welcomed the measures, including new traffic lights together with pedestrian crossings. **However traffic delays have caused serious concern.**

The modifications form part of the Council's Development Plan 2010-2016 and the Sandyford Urban Framework Plan 2011-2016. These are designed to promote business development and overall amenity for all road users throughout the area. The one way system was designed as a temporary measure pending the construction of the M50 to cater for the huge traffic flows and volumes during its construction.

In a statement, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council said it is acutely aware that local traffic delays have been experienced by motorists since the introduction of a two-way system for traffic on Blackthorn Road as it approaches Blackthorn Avenue.

A spokesman of the Council said, "Regrettably the new two-way system on Blackthorn Road has caused significant delays and unintended frustration for drivers using this route in the evenings at peak travel time. People have been finding it very difficult to exit some of the business car parks or to make reasonable progress on the road due to peak rush hour congestion. This is an unacceptable situation for everyone concerned including the County Council."

Following a comprehensive review, imeasures are being undertaken immediately by the County Council in an initiative to reduce evening travel times.

- The build out and pedestrian crossing at the junction of Blackthorn Road and Blackthorn Avenue will be pulled back and this junction widened to accommodate two lanes of traffic.
- While Blackthorn Road will remain two-way, a second lane will be introduced on the approach to Blackthorn Avenue to increase traffic flows. The Road will then have three lanes in total (allowing for 2 lanes exiting Blackthorn Road and 1 lane entering).
- The lane adjustments will be achieved mainly through the alteration of road markings (also involving the removal of current cycle track markings). New off road cycle tracks will be delivered soon.
- These measures will take a **maximum of ten days** (weather permitting) to be completed. They are being implemented as a priority and works have already commenced.
- The County Council will continue to monitor traffic flows in the area following the introduction of these measures.

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is dedicated to ongoing improvements in infrastructure and amenities throughout the Sandyford Business District to ensure its continuing development as a high quality business and residential area. The County Council expressed appreciation to all businesses and residents for their patience in relation to the roads issue. The situation is expected to improve as the new measures take effect.

Ends