

We, the undersigned stakeholders, submit this objection to the application made to Cork County Council for the temporary closing of the R610, Passage West for construction of a foul sewer pipe from 06.00 h Monday 2nd Jul 2018 to 06.00 h Friday 31st Aug 2018 (24 hour closure).

Although we are a harbourside town and we welcome the cleaning up of Cork Harbour, we vehemently oppose the above two-month road closure proposed for the R610.

1. By severing the residents, businesses and services in Passage West from the residents, businesses and services in Monkstown, the proposed road closure would seriously impinge on the everyday lives of residents and would threaten the viability of businesses, particularly in Passage West town centre.
2. Ward & Burke have submitted an application for permission to close the R610 without consultation through a promised public meeting/information event.
3. There has been no consultation with the residents and businesses of the town on alternatives to the proposed total and potentially catastrophic closure of the R610. For example, the acceptability of night works for adjacent residents has not been explored at all.
4. There is much concern that access for emergency vehicles has been neither arranged nor explained.
5. Connectivity for residents dependent on the 223 bus service between Ringaskiddy and Douglas has not been adequately explained.
6. The proposed Traffic Management Plan has not been seen by nor agreed with stakeholders.
7. The alternative route identified in the road closure application is a round trip of over 18 km. To expect residents to endure the cost of completing this trip over a two-month period is unacceptable.
8. The alternative route identified involves travelling the temporary road surface laid by Ward & Burke from Monkstown through Raffeen to the N28. Its poor quality has a costly and detrimental effect on vehicles.
9. Ward & Burke have suggested to our public representatives that residents can travel between Passage West and Monkstown on local roads. Neither the surface nor the width of our local roads could accommodate the diverted traffic.
10. Many working in the Ringaskiddy Strategic Employment Area commute through Passage West/Monkstown so as to avoid congestion on Carr's Hill. The impact on the wider road network of forcing all commuting traffic through the Shannonpark roundabout has not been considered.
11. The impact of the road closure over an entire summer would have a severe and unacceptable impact on the Cross River Ferry.
12. Notice of this proposed total closure of the R610 has been totally inadequate. Cork County Council requires temporary road closure application forms to be received by the Area Office at least 5 weeks in advance of the proposed closure. Once permission for the road closure is granted, that closure must be publicly advertised for at least 7 days. In this case, there are only 15 days between the date of advertising and the proposed closure of the R610 at Glenbrook.

For over a year we have lived with significant inconvenience to accommodate the laying of sewers. We have tolerated the inconvenience because we understand the benefits of the Lower Harbour drainage scheme. We are willing to work with the contractor to achieve these benefits. But it is essential that the burden of these works on our community are minimised. Our towns must be allowed to function. The brunt of this requested two-month road closure would be potentially catastrophic for our community. A rethink, including consultation, is imperative.