Figure 49: An overview of the campus layout at Ashbourne Community School.

Figure 50 and 51: Chaotic front of school environment pre-works.

Introducing a School Zone in a Multi-Use Urban Area

Ashbourne Community School is a large, urban secondary school in County Meath, located just off the R135, Dublin Road at Deerpark housing estate. The school has 1,100 students traveling from a wide catchment area and shares the front of school area with Gaelscoil na Cille (not an SRTS school). The access road to the schools also serves a pre-school, doctors surgery and a busy community centre, Ashbourne Tennis Club, Ashbourne Cricket Club and the National Baseball Club. An existing permeability link provides pedestrian and wheeled user access to a car park on Milltown Road to the west.

The junction of Deerpark and the R135, along with the school campus and Milltown Road, experience lots of traffic congestion, double parking, children weaving between parked and moving cars, u-turns, stopping near or on crossings at school start and finish times. This is attributed to the influx of students and staff, as well as the traffic associated with the nearby housing estate and other community amenities. Consequently, the safety of pedestrians and cyclists is compromised by hazardous parking practices, such as vehicles on footpaths and dangerous driving manoeuvres.

Figure 52: Launch of School Zone in November 2023

Figure 53: Part of front of school works in Ashbourne, Co. Meath.

Continued....

The SRTS parent and guardian survey found that there was a good existing uptake of sustainable travel with 36.5% of students walking to school, 15.3% travelling by school bus, 12% by bike, and 9.4% using Park and Stride. The school also took part in the Green-Schools Travel initiative **#andshecycles** and had some of their students become #andshecycles ambassadors.

The SRTS delivery plan identified opportunities for improvements at the front of school as well as along routes to school. Meath County Council delivered the scheme, which was launched in November 2023. The upgrades, particularly on Milltown Road and its access points, have significantly eased traffic congestion at the front of school. Since the launch, a growing number of parents and guardians are now choosing the 'Park and Stride' alternatives located close to the school.