

CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

The Irish government has brought in a couple of brilliant and progressive measures in the last few years. The Plastic Bag Tax and the Smoking Ban made so much sense it seemed unbelievable they were actually going to do it. What's next? We've come up with some suggestions that, similar to the other two, may seem crazy at first but we think they'll work.

- A Digital Price Sign. Those signs that tell you the capacities of all the car parks why not have them for everything. Wouldn't it be so much easier rather than trailing around all the shops comparing prices if the prices were all up on a big board like a stock market ticker and all you had to do was wait by the board until the object you were looking for came up during the 3 hour rotation. Simple.
 - Get rid of 1 and 2 cent coins. They're a complete waste of time and effort.
 - Name Badges. Wouldn't it be great if everyone wore name badges all the time? We could all greet each other as we passed on the street. And you'd never forget anyone's name.
 - The Spire. Something has to be done with this giant pole. Possible uses are: giant flag, giant tether ball, giant maypole, giant bird house, giant TV aerial.
 - Gurrier Raft. If our prisons and youth detention centres are too full to detain these pickpockets, muggers and vandals let's just lure them onto a raft and the push them out into the sea. This may seem to infringe their rights at first glance but when you think about it we'd all just be much happier without them. They could be lured onto the raft by the sound of mopeds. It'd be a beautiful noise to hear them just drift away. "Here bud, here, here, ah here bud, buddy, here!"
 - Ban Burglar Alarms. Noise producing alarms, nobody pays the slightest bit of attention to them. They do nothing to prevent theft they just annoy everybody. I saw two Guards walking breezily past a blaring alarm the other day, not even they care.
 - Tanorexia. In a similar move to the ultra-violet lights that prevent junkies from shooting up, surely there is some form of light that could be put in women's toilets so they could be shown what they really look like with all that fake tan on them.
 - Hagging. Bring back hagging.
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- Saturday Night Concerts in O'Connell Street. The street is horrendous at night anyway it might as well have a musical accompaniment.
 - City Swappies. See if we can swap any of our stuff for another city's stuff. "Swap you The Floozy in the Jacuzzi for The Little Mermaid." "Alright but no keepies."
 - Job Swaps. Once a month you swap jobs with a randomly chosen person so we all get to see things from someone else's perspective. It would of course lead to dangerously unqualified people performing complex jobs where somebody's life is in their hands but it'd be a bit of craic.
 - No More Automated Phone Trees. All phone trees must have real people giving the options.
 - Piggy Backs for Old People.
 - All Women's Toilets. Turn all men's toilets into women's since men seem happy enough to just piss in the street like animals.
 - The Hugging Hour. For one hour every Thursday everyone has to greet anyone they see with a hug. They then follow that with a litany of compliments. This would increase everybody's self esteem and make us all feel good for the rest of the day. Of course there be some perverts who'd get some kind of dirty pleasure out of all this hugging. But sure why not. It doesn't cost the rest of us anything and if it makes them happy...
 - Colour Days. Every Monday the city is given an official colour to wear for Tuesday, thus brightening up the place, creating a sense of community, promoting a carnival atmosphere, breaking up the week and creating an air of anticipation for Job Swap Day and The Hugging Hour.
 - The Prank Commissioners. A state funded body that would instigate pranks upon the population, either on an individual or nationwide basis. Other possible institutions would be The Department of Goofing Off, The Office of Surprise Parties and The Ministry of Someone Fancies You.
 - Skating. Rather than banning skateboarders and pushing them out to the fringes of the city let's encourage them. They're very entertaining to watch. Have you ever seen one of these kids actually manage a trick? It's like a live version of Kirsty's Home Videos. Provide your own laugh track.
 - Uni-Bus. No more having to get a bus into town and then get a connecting bus to where you actually wanted to go. Just have one bus that goes everywhere. Simple.
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- While we're on the subject of buses, what about making them all free? How much would that actually cost? If the government really wanted to cut down on car use then maybe they should just put the money in. Who wouldn't take the bus if it was free? Especially when it's faster because there's no more waiting around for the bus driver to perform his dual role as ticket collector.
 - Phoenix Safari. Give those miserable lions in the zoo a nice break and cut down the deer population in one fell swoop.
 - Work Less. With the Accession States joining the EU and the economic boom here in Ireland, we're far from being the poorest country in the EU any more. So Ireland isn't going to be receiving any more development grants from Brussels. In fact we're just going to be paying money. The only way to stop this is to decrease productivity. Let's all take Friday's off.
 - No More Right Turns. We might as well take that final step and ban right turns all together. At last count there was only 7 places in the entire country where you can actually still make a right turn (approx.), and one of those just leads to a car park. Let's make it official. We can all just do spirals to get to where we want to go from now on.
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