

February 2020

The Dublin Beat

Citibeats analysed citizen opinions in the Dublin Region for an overview of their most pressing concerns.

PERIOD NOVEMBER 2019 TO JANUARY 2020

Citizen opinions analysed #

10,000+
voices

4 districts

Fastest growing category

Community & Culture



Most positive sentiment

Community & Culture



Most discussed

Community & Culture



Fastest declining category

Mobility



Most negative sentiment

Mobility



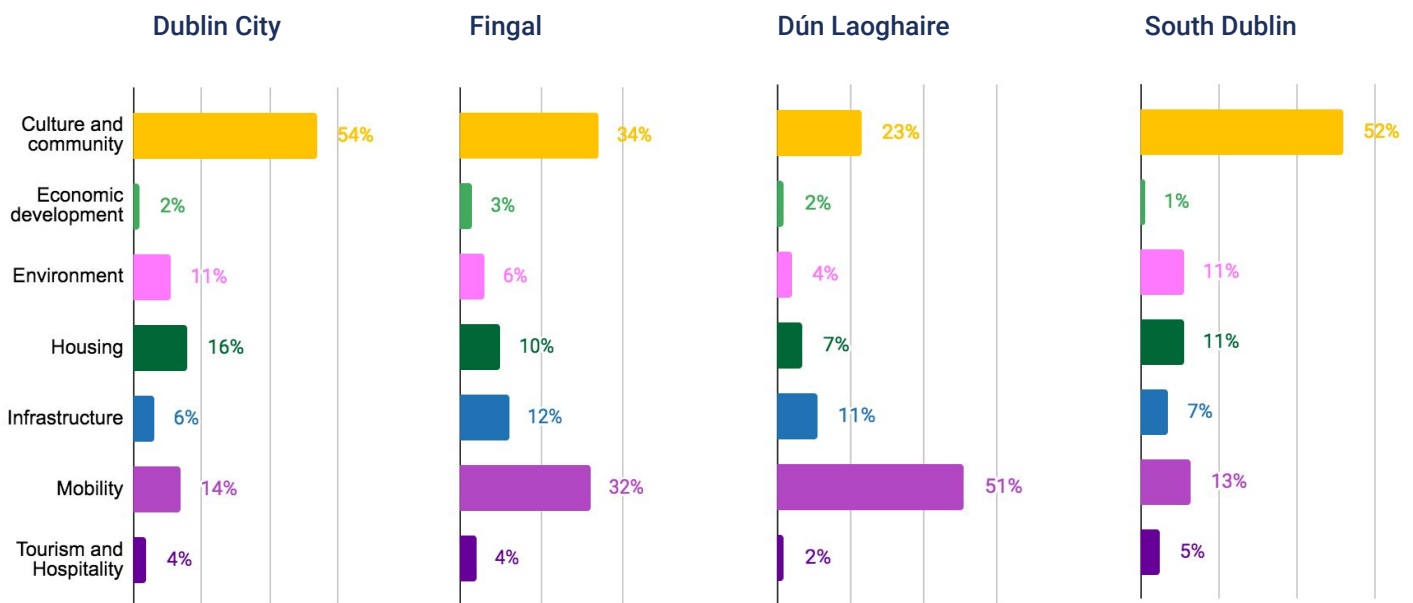
How do the priority areas differ by region?

The Dublin Beat establishes an ongoing, holistic indication of what citizens think about their city; for that purpose, thousands of online opinions each month are structured into 15 categories.

This quarterly report, shows results for seven most relevant categories. **Mobility** and **Community & Culture** topics were shown as common interest for citizens in Dublin region. **Housing** and **Infrastructure** were also amongst the most discussed topics.

● Community & Culture ● Economic development ● Mobility ● Environment ● Tourism and hospitality ● Housing ● Infrastructure

Figure 1. Discussion volume across the Greater Dublin Area



Dublin City

Community and culture was the hottest topic in Dublin City. Citizens expressed their disappointment as they perceive the city is losing emblematic cultural Irish sites because of gentrification and tourism.

Citizens in Dublin City are also concerned about the unaffordable **housing** prices and consider the city council should invest more in social housing programmes.

Fingal

Comments around **community and culture** dominated the conversation this month because of several local cultural activities promoted by libraries.

Regarding **mobility**, citizens are asking for safety improvements in cycle lanes.

Dún Laoghaire

Mobility dominated the conversation in Dún Laoghaire. Citizens demand improvements in safety conditions for cyclists. A story about ineffective bollards to protect cyclists became viral.

Regarding **community and culture**, the conversation centered around the courses and workshops to support creative businesses.

South Dublin

The civic debate on **community and culture** was around different charity events organised by the community.

In relation to **mobility**, citizens complain about insufficient public transport capacity, as buses are usually overcrowded.

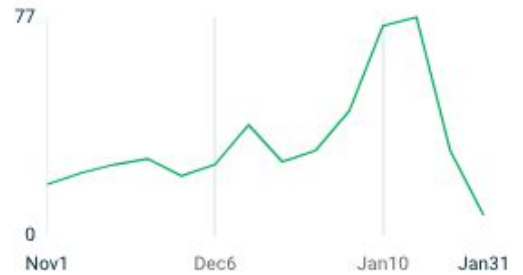
Key moments in Dublin City

Dublin City - Housing



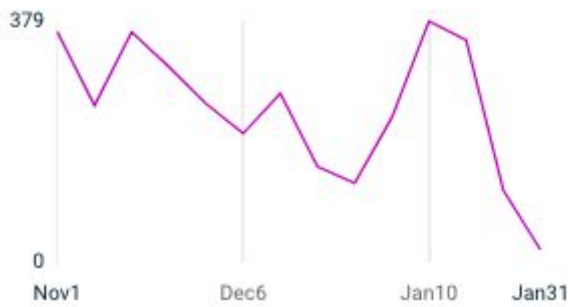
17 - 23 Jan The GE debate has triggered civic discussions in social media. Citizens express their discontent with the government’s housing policy and demand more investment in social housing programmes.

Dublin City - Economic Development



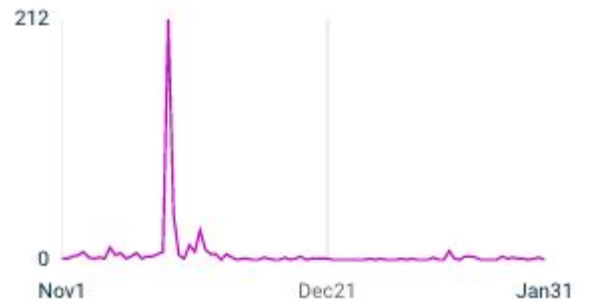
17 - 23 Jan Also after the GE debate, citizens argued that while unemployment figures might have declined, citizens struggle to make ends meet.

Dublin City - Mobility



10 - 16 Jan Citizens discuss traffic measures to reduce traffic congestion and pollution in the city center, such as closing some streets to traffic.

Fingal - Mobility



21 Nov The spike observed is due to a civic conversation around cycling and driving rules. It was triggered by a car driver complaining about a cyclist riding on the car’s lane instead of the bike lane.

Dún Laoghaire - Infrastructure



6 Nov The civic conversation turns around the suggestion to increase parking charges to fund more and safer cycling lanes.

South Dublin - Tourism and Hospitality



6 - 12 Dec The conversation centred around the White Water Rafting Initiative. Citizens complain especially that resources are not invested in social housing.

How is public sentiment evolving?

Citizens express their sentiment regarding different topics in their cities. Citibeats AI structures their opinions based on positive, neutral or negative sentiment.

The most significant positive sentiments were around **Community and Culture** and **Economic Development** and the most significant negative sentiments were around **Mobility** and **Housing**.

+ Most positive

Community and Culture

Citizens welcome and talk positively around the numerous charity events organised in the city, especially around Christmas.



"Well done to all our volunteers yesterday collecting over 1700 Christmas trees in very inclement conditions!! Many thanks to our members and local community for supporting this great initiative #bodengaa"

— Most negative

Mobility

Citizens in Dublin complain about the need to invest more in cycling infrastructure to encourage more people to cycle and reduce the traffic jams and contamination.



"Private cars shouldn't even be in that area. When in gods name will they use camera enforcement, the revenue produced would pay for a lot of public transport and cycling infrastructure upgrades, why'll punishing uncaring drivers. DOH! @DubCityCouncil @Cyclistie"

↗ Rising positive

Economic Development

Citizens welcome news about reduced unemployment and positive economic indicators. Although some feel still skeptical.



"..with 4.8% unemployment, #Ireland finally reaches pre-crash levels. While many will look at Ireland as the poster-boy of Europe, the Irish paid a very high price for the 2007 credit crisis. Almost a decade to rebuild the local job market."

↘ Rising negative

Housing

The announcement of the White Water Rafting initiative raised many criticisms. Citizens especially regret that Dublin City Council does not invest enough in social housing.



"Great news for the thousands homeless in Ireland, our Government have made the essential priorities and have managed 2spend €22mil for a new whitewater rafting facility in Dublin."



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Our mission: powering a responsive society, by
distilling concerns and making them measurable