

€300K HAVE YOUR SAY

EVALUATION OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL PILOT PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING EXERCISE

LAURA SHANNON
DR. RICHARD BOYLE
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fast Facts about SDCC PB

- €300,000 extra discretionary funding allocated to the process
- 160 ideas submitted during consultation phase
- 120 workshop participants
- 449 visits to the online consultation portal
- 17 projects presented on final ballot
- Over 2,500 ballots cast online and in person
- 8 winning projects

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a process in which the public can participate directly in the allocation of local public finances. Residents develop project proposals for their local area and vote on shortlisted proposals in order to select winning projects to be implemented in the area.

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) piloted the first ever PB process in Ireland in 2017 (branded “€300k – Have Your Say”). SDCC allocated €300,000 to the PB process and selected one of 6 local electoral areas in South Dublin County by lot in which to pilot the project. The area selected was the Lucan electoral area, which also includes Palmerstown and Adamstown.

160 ideas were generated at the project proposal stage, through a combination of workshops and online submission of ideas. These were eventually whittled down to 17 projects which went out for ballot. Over 2,500 ballots were cast online and in person, and 8 winning projects selected:

- Playground in Waterstown Park, Palmerstown
- Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Silver Bridge, Palmerstown
- Christmas Lights in Lucan Village
- Planting Native Apple Trees, Lucan Electoral Area
- Access to Church and Graveyard at Mill Lane, Palmerstown
- Free Library Book Banks in Public Places – Lucan Electoral Area
- Multi-Games Wall in Lucan
- Restoration of King John’s Bridge Griffeen Park – Lucan

The South Dublin County Council “€300k – Have Your Say” PB exercise has been a success and proved very popular. This is illustrated by the response to a question in the survey of PB participants as to whether they would like to see the PB process repeated: 94 per cent said they would, and only 6 per cent were against repeating the process. This report tracks the PB initiative from its start to the selection of the winning projects. The report highlights what went well and identifies areas for improvement.

1 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

1.1 Introduction

South Dublin County Council piloted the first ever Participatory Budgeting (PB) process in Ireland in 2017. As part of the pilot, the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) were invited to conduct an independent, external evaluation of the process.

1.2 What is participatory budgeting?

PB originated in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1989 and has since spread worldwide (Sintomer et al., 2013). Simply put, PB is a process in which the public can participate directly in the allocation of local public finances.

PB has been defined as a process which “engages people in taking decisions on the spending priorities for a defined public budget in their local area. This means engaging residents and community groups to discuss spending priorities, make spending proposals, and vote on them, as well giving local people a role in the scrutiny and monitoring of the process” (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2008, p. 8).

Sintomer et al. (2013) provide a set of criteria which must be reached in order for a process to be considered as a Participatory Budget. These are:

1. the financial and/or budgetary dimension must be discussed;
2. the city level or a district with an elected body has to be involved (the neighbourhood level is not sufficient);
3. it has to be a repeated process;
4. it must include some forms of public deliberation within the framework of specific meetings and/or forums;
5. some accountability is required so that the output reflects the public will (Sintomer et al. 2013).

1.3 International experience with participatory budgeting

As PB has spread globally, it has been adapted by local governments to meet local circumstances and therefore has taken many different forms. In a 2013 study, Sintomer et al. identified between 1,269 to 2,778 PB processes worldwide.

Wampler and Hartz (2012) note some of the motivations for governments carrying out PB; some seek to spark better forms of deliberation, others to mobilise the population, and others to bring transparency and accountability to local governments. Kersting et al. argue that despite a broad variety in different countries, PB in Europe focuses more on “public brainstorming and less on planning, conflict resolution, social capital and pro-poor welfare policies” (2016, p. 318). Also with regard to Europe, Sintomer et al. note that:

... PB is increasingly being seen as important for local participatory development. In Poland, for instance, legislation has been passed to promote the introduction of PB. And in many European countries local governments are involving their citizens in decision-making on local expenditure, not least due to the pressure they face as a result of scarce resources. The European Union has listed PB as a good practice example for the calls for proposals to be issued by the European Social Fund 2014-2020. By so doing it has acknowledged PB as a permanent instrument for the future, also in Europe (2013, p. 6).

PB has been particularly actively used in countries such as Spain, Italy, Germany and Poland. In the UK, local public officials began experimenting with PB around the mid 2000's (Blakey, 2011). Pilot projects generated interest from the then New Labour government, which led to the publication of a PB strategy in 2008 (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2008). However, in England, there are signs that PB has faltered somewhat nationally: the non-governmental organisation which supported the dissemination of PBs, the PB Unit, had to close in 2012 due to the lack of national government funding (Sintomer et al. 2013, p. 12).

In Scotland, however, PB continues to thrive and a recent evaluation of the first generation of PB in Scotland "points towards the 'mainstreaming' of PB, moving beyond the community grant-making model that has been predominant, and opening up space for more complex models that involve mainstream budgets" (What Works Scotland, 2017).

1.4 The national policy context

Local authorities in Ireland are extensively engaged with their local communities via a wide range of statutory and non-statutory consultation procedures, as noted by the County and City Managers' Association (CCMA) in their submission to the Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government:

Increased participation by communities in local decision-making is a pre-requisite for improving local democracy. However, it would be important to note that the focus of local government is and always has been on the citizen. Local authorities have a long and proud history of involvement in community engagement initiatives at local level. This role has been growing since the 1980s, with a focus on local development initiatives to create employment, and local co-ordination of services (CCMA, 2013 pp. 3-4).

The need to encourage greater ownership of, and participation in, local decision making has been reflected in numerous documents and local government reform plans over the years. Enhancing local democracy was one of four core principles of the 1996 reform programme *Better Local Government – A Programme for Change*.

To advance this core principle of enhancing local democracy, a range of new structures were introduced including Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and City and County Development Boards (CDBs). Despite these efforts, in 2007 the *Taskforce on Active Citizenship* raised concerns about the disconnect which was perceived between citizens and local government. In 2008 the *Green Paper on Local Government* suggested some new avenues of participation which would complement the progress made since *Better Local Government*. The Green Paper referenced some novel forms of engagement including participatory budgeting, petitions, plebiscites and town/area meetings and suggested that the opportunity should be taken to pilot or experiment with these kinds of initiatives. It wasn't until 2012, however, that a White Paper, *Putting People First* was produced, which again suggested piloting of the above mentioned initiatives.

The Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government was established in 2013, following the publication of *Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government* (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2012) to make recommendations that provide for:

- More extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision-making process at local government level
- Facilitation of input by citizens into decision making at local government level.

Also mentioned in the terms of reference was to consider further the application and implementation of options in *Putting People First* which includes Participatory Budgeting – although there is not much evidence of consideration of such novel initiatives. The Report of the Working Group was published in early 2014.

The definition of Participatory Budgeting presented in *Stronger Local Democracy* and later in *Putting People First* is as follows:

Participatory Budgeting is a fiscal decision-making mechanism which involves citizens in the discussion of municipal budgets and/or the allocation of municipal funding. Residents may identify spending priorities, elect delegates to represent different communities on local authority budgeting committees, and initiate local community projects. Participatory budgeting could result in a direct, stronger, participative relationship between citizens and local authorities, better public spending decisions, enhanced transparency and accountability, and a greater understanding among citizens of the financial circumstances within which local authorities must operate. States such as Belgium (Region of Brussels Capital), Denmark, Finland and the UK have adopted legislation in relation to participatory budgeting. While some such legislation requires the use of participatory mechanisms, they are not compulsory in other cases and local authorities have discretion on the use of those mechanisms (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2012, pp. 160-161).

PB has also recently been included as a commitment in Ireland's Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan 2016-2018 as a means to enable further citizen engagement in local authority budgeting. The OGP is an international initiative which aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

2 OVERVIEW OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL PILOT PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING EXERCISE AND EVALUATION

2.1 Description of the pilot project

The introduction of PB was first proposed at a Council meeting in South Dublin County Council in 2014. While it did not proceed then, there was interest in the proposal and it was subsequently agreed that a pilot PB initiative would occur in 2017.

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) launched Ireland's first ever Participatory Budgeting (PB) process in February 2017. SDCC allocated €300,000 to the PB process and selected one of 6 local electoral areas in South Dublin County by lot in which to pilot the project. The area selected was the Lucan electoral area, which also includes Palmerstown and Adamstown. South Dublin County is one of 4 local authority areas in the Dublin region, with a population of 278,749.

Funding for PB is from the revenue budget and not the capital budget. This means funds have to be allocated within the budgetary cycle and cannot to be spent on major capital projects such as new buildings.

The oversight of the process was the responsibility of a Steering Group which consisted of elected members, selected on a cross-party, independent basis, supported by SDCC staff. Alongside the Mayor, 6 elected members were selected; 2 members from the Lucan electoral area and from Tallaght South, and one member each from Templeogue/Terenure and Clondalkin. Members of SDCC staff on the Steering Group included the Chief Executive, Director of Services for Corporate Performance and Change Management, Director of Services for Housing, Community and Social Development, Head of Finance, Head of Information Systems, Lucan Area Committee Coordinator and a staff member from the Communications Unit.

The process was carried out over 4 phases, which are outlined in Figure 2.1, and briefly described below.

Phase One – Planning, Communications and Launch

Phase one involved the planning, design and launch of the SDCC PB initiative. SDCC staff members conducted background research on international experience with PB and produced a draft work programme, which was discussed and adopted at the first Steering Group Meeting in January 2017.

An external company were engaged to produce branding for the initiative. This branding was subsequently used on all promotional material and on the website.

A variety of communication methods were used to promote both the launch night and the consultation phase. This included emails to community groups, advertising in local newspapers and radio stations, leaflet drops, the use of social media and a dedicated section on the SDCC website. A launch event was also held to promote the initiative.

Phase Two – Consultation

The primary method of consultation during this phase was workshops. Three workshop venues were selected to cover the entire electoral area and to encourage participation. Workshops were held in Adamstown, Lucan and Palmerstown in March 2017. The workshops were open to everyone and information regarding dates, venues and

background information about the PB process was widely circulated prior to the workshops. Workshops were independently facilitated and group discussions were supported by SDCC staff members. Proposals could also be submitted online, via SDCC's consultation portal.

The online submissions portal was open for three weeks. Submissions were then assessed by SDCC staff and approved by the Steering Group. The final selected proposals were approved by the full Council before being re-presented on the website for the public to vote on.

Phase Three – Share Proposals and Vote

During this phase, the public voted for their priorities up to the value of €300,000. Following the closure of the voting period those proposals receiving the highest vote with a combined value of €300,000, were chosen to proceed to completion within the following 12-month period.

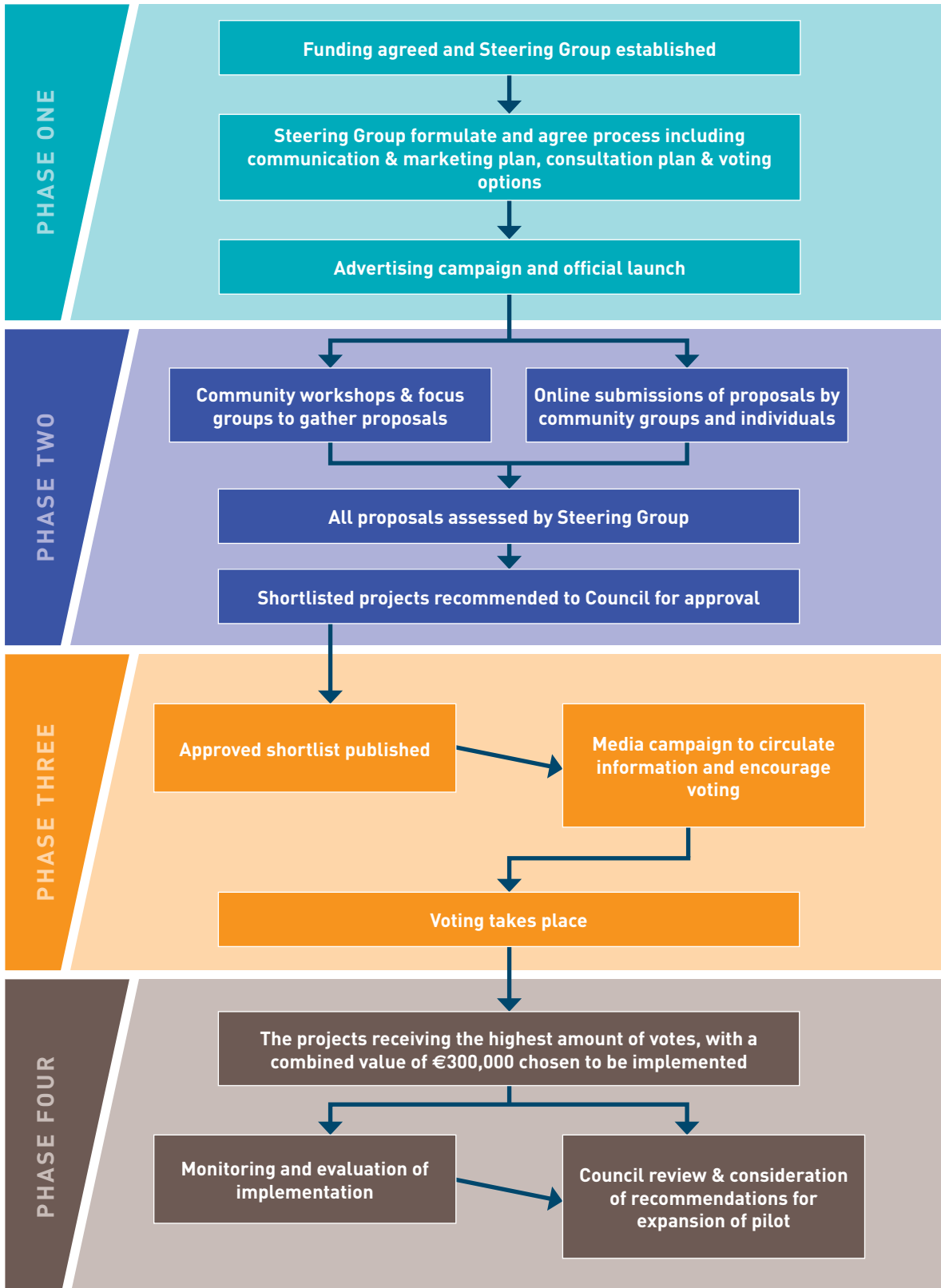
Voting took place both on and offline. No age limit was placed on voting, the aim being to encourage wider community engagement, including the young. SDCC staff prepared information on shortlisted projects and had a media campaign to publish choices and details on the voting period and how to vote. The online voting was open for 5 days between the 22nd and 26th May. There were also paper voting stations in Adamstown, Lucan and Palmerstown. Voting in these locations took place on Thursday 25th May. The results of the vote were announced at a public event in the Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley on Thursday, 1st June.

Phase Four – Implementation and Review

SDCC intend to implement the chosen projects within a 12-month period.

The entire process will also be reviewed by the full Council, including consideration of this report, with a view to considering expansion of the pilot initiative.

FIGURE 2.1 FLOWCHART OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PILOT PHASES



2.2 Evaluation approach and methodology

Prior to the launch of the SDCC PB pilot, the IPA were invited to conduct an independent, external evaluation of the process. The purpose of the independent evaluation is to document the process and inform the Council decision on the future development of PB.

A review of international participatory budgeting exercises was carried out to identify appropriate methods of evaluation. This review consisted of evaluation reports for nine separate PB exercises across the UK, Europe and the US. The most common methods of data collection identified were:

- Surveys.
- Observations/fieldwork.
- Interviews.
- Focus groups.
- Literature reviews/document analysis.
- Use of existing local economic, social, and demographic data.

The evaluation approach was guided by the international examples and literature, and adapted to suit the SDCC PB process. The IPA evaluators were present at all Steering Group meetings, the official launch night, two of the workshops, and at the final event to announce results.

All relevant material and documents prepared by the Steering Group and other SDCC staff were made available, including the work programme, timelines, meeting minutes and so on. Copies of advertising material such as newspaper clippings and radio advertisements were also provided. Alongside this, the evaluators monitored the SDCC website and social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) throughout the process for relevant material relating to the PB pilot. Following the conclusion of the process, a search was also conducted for mentions of the pilot on Facebook and Twitter, as well as a general web search.

Following the conclusion of the pilot process, interviews were conducted with the Steering Group members, which includes both elected members and SDCC staff. One telephone interview and 11 face-to-face interviews were conducted. A common interview guide was used for all interviews, which typically lasted between 30 minutes to an hour.

An online survey was prepared by the SDCC communications unit and sent to all those who provided email addresses to SDCC during the process. The link to the survey was also circulated on SDCC's social media channels. The survey received 305 responses. It consisted of 12 questions and a general feedback section. The survey results are included as Appendix 1.

The information collected was used to assess the strengths and limitations for each of the phases of the pilot project, to assess the success of the PB initiative, and to suggest areas for improvement should a decision be made to continue with PB.

3 PHASE 1 – PLANNING, COMMUNICATIONS AND LAUNCH

3.1 Description

Phase one involved the planning, design and launch of the project. This phase was carried out by the Steering Group and SDCC communications and IT staff. SDCC staff members conducted background research drawing on international PB examples (the approach used in Reykjavik, Iceland was found to be a particularly useful model) and produced a detailed draft work programme outlining what would be involved in each of the stages and an indicative timeline of events.

SDCC engaged an external graphic design company to produce branding for the initiative. Three different branding options were presented to the Steering Group at their second meeting in February. The Steering Group approved the campaign title “300k – Have Your Say” and the overall branding. This branding was included on all promotional material (see Appendix 2 for example of the branding).

A production company was employed to shoot two videos. One at the start of the process to use on the website, social media and at the workshops, to explain the concept, and the other tracking the process from beginning to end.

During the planning phase the Steering Group identified community groups and stakeholders to engage with for the consultation phase. The methods of communication/advertisement were:

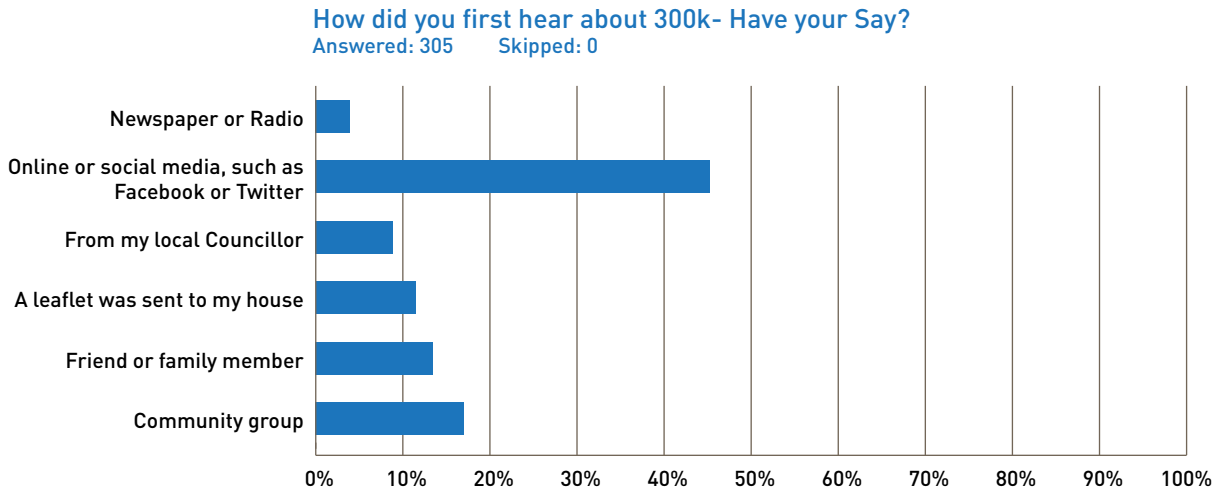
- Emails sent to existing lists of community groups etc.
- Advertising in local newspapers and radio stations.
- Posters.
- Social media (mainly Twitter and Facebook using dedicated hashtag #SDCCPB).
- Leaflet drop.
- Dedicated section on SDCC website.
- A short video outlining the process (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdbE1wOU2JU>).

A frequently asked questions (FAQ) note was also put together and advertised widely both online and through newsletters (see Appendix 3).

There was a launch event held in a local hotel to announce the project, inform stakeholders and encourage maximum participation in the consultation and voting phases. This was attended by around 50-60 people. The Mayor formally launched the pilot, and there was also a Q&A session with Councillors.

Figure 3.1 sets out the results of the PB survey carried out by the Council with regard to how people first heard of “€300k – Have Your Say”. Almost half of those who responded first heard about it from online and social media sources such as Facebook and Twitter. 17 per cent first heard via a community group, and 13 per cent via a friend or family member. These results should be regarded as indicative. While there was a good response rate to the survey, it is likely that those who responded to an email survey are more likely to be familiar with the use of social media and online communications, and that this may bias responses in this direction.

FIGURE 3.1



Source: SDCC Have Your Say Participatory Budgeting Initiative Survey Results, July 2017.

3.2 Strengths/What went well

Planning the Project:

Most of the preliminary planning stage was conducted by SDCC Communications and IT staff. There was strong leadership from an early stage from the chief executive, which encouraged cross-departmental working and commitment to the project.

The work plan was flexible and allowed the process to be organic, and for lessons to be learned as they went along. The campaign title of “300k – Have Your Say” was adopted by the Steering Group following a brainstorming session at an initial meeting. They were very keen to ensure that the branding could be used going forward, and that it wasn’t specific to the local electoral area. The branding was seen as successful in that it was strong, clear and consistent throughout the process and across the different platforms used.

Communications:

The communication and advertising campaign was viewed positively in general, and will be discussed in more detail throughout the report.

3.3 Limitations/Areas for improvement

Planning the Project:

The project was planned within a very limited timeframe. While feedback on this stage is positive, some felt that allowing more time to tease out the details would have been useful. Some of the Councillors represented on the Steering Group felt that they had limited involvement in this phase. They had the chance to review the work programme once it was completed, but would like to have had more engagement in the scoping/exploratory phase.

Communications:

While Steering Group members felt the communication and advertising campaign was good, with strong branding, there were also some suggestions for improvements:

- Billboards on the entrances to the Lucan area may be more useful than leaflet drops, which do not reach all areas and can be seen as junk mail.
- Councillors should agree to use the “€300k – Have Your Say” branding on all information produced by them to ensure consistency.
- Social media campaign and online presence could be improved, but needs to be used in tandem with more traditional approaches.
- More attention given at an early stage to groups that traditionally do not have high levels of participation such as migrants and people with disabilities.

Communication methods for the specific phases will be discussed throughout the remainder of the report.

4 PHASE 2 – PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION, SELECTION OF PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC VOTE

4.1 Description

After extensive communication and advertising of the initiative, the consultation phase began in March 2017.

Consultation Phase

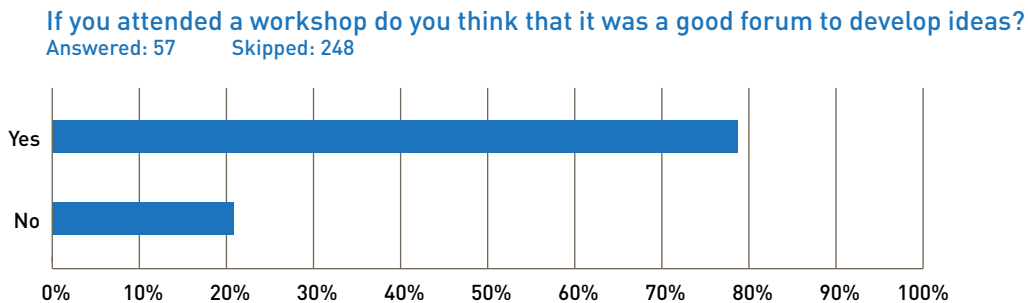
Consultation took place both online and through community workshops. Three workshop venues were selected to cover the entire electoral area and to encourage wide participation. Workshops were held in Adamstown, Lucan and Palmerstown in March 2017. The workshops were open to everyone and information regarding dates, venues and background information about the PB process was widely circulated prior to the workshops. 120 people attended the workshops (Adamstown (27); Lucan (36); and Palmerstown (57)).

Workshops were independently facilitated and group discussions were supported by SDCC staff members (primarily community development workers) at each event. The workshops followed the following format:

- Opened by the Mayor and Council staff, who provided general information on the PB process and introduced the short video mentioned above. In addition, brief presentations were made regarding existing community grants (Community Grants Programme and Community Initiative Fund).
- Discussion took place in small groups of 6 or 7, with one community development worker at each table to facilitate discussions and record ideas/proposals.
- The independent facilitator provided assistance to group discussions as required, while keeping the time and ensuring the workshops finished as scheduled.
- Groups were given around 45 minutes to discuss their ideas. Each group then very briefly gave an account of their proposals.

The workshops were well received by participants as Figure 4.1 illustrates.

FIGURE 4.1



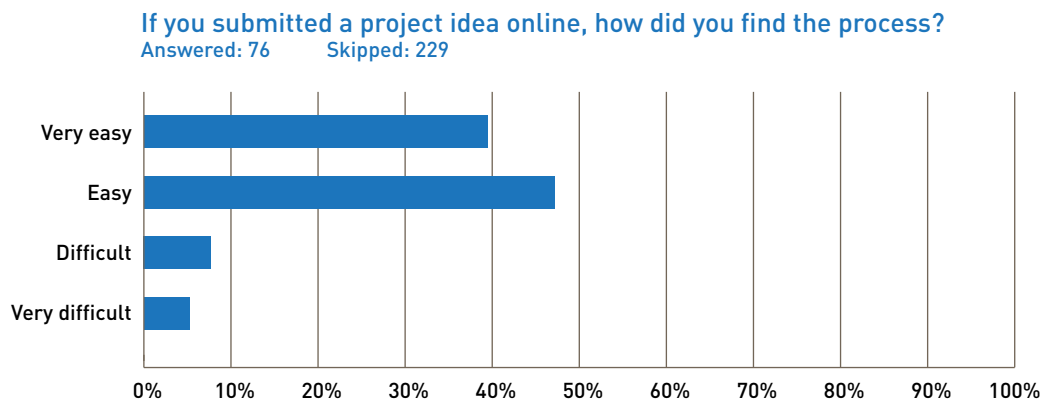
Source: SDCC Have Your Say Participatory Budgeting Initiative Survey Results, July 2017

A separate workshop for school children was held in the Council chambers. The intention was to give a voice to this group in the process, and also to generate interest amongst young people in the political process.

The ideas/proposals discussed at each of the workshops were recorded by SDCC staff. Participants were also encouraged to develop their ideas further and submit proposals using the online portal. This portal requires registration, and when submitting proposals people were asked for their email address and the area in which they reside. The portal is used by SDCC for various consultation efforts, for example consultation on the County Development Plan. The online submissions portal was open for three weeks (28th February to the 22nd March). Submissions could be made by individuals as well as community groups, and each individual could only enter one submission.

Participants were positive about the ease of submitting proposals online. 87 per cent of the 76 survey respondents who answered this question found the process easy or very easy, with 13 per cent finding it difficult or very difficult (Figure 4.2).

FIGURE 4.2



Source: SDCC Have Your Say Participatory Budgeting Initiative Survey Results, July 2017

Selection of proposals for public vote

The next phase was to assess the proposals received and create a shortlist of proposals for voting. A total of 160 wide-ranging submissions were received. 84 of these emanated from the workshops and 76 via the consultation portal. There was a high degree of commonality and consistency between the submissions, with a strong emphasis on youth, recreation, heritage, and amenity issues.

SDCC staff produced an estimated cost for each of the submissions. They also drew up criteria to determine acceptance or rejection of submissions. The submissions and criteria were considered by the Steering Group at its third meeting in April. 106 submissions were excluded based on the following agreed criteria:

1. The project is already planned and finance made available e.g. Adamstown Community Hall, Lucan Pool etc.
2. The project proposal falls within the responsibility of another Government Department e.g. The National Transport Authority.
3. The project cost exceeds €300,000 e.g. the development of a new library in Lucan.

4. The project/proposal comes within the funding available under current schemes e.g. Community Grants, Summer Projects etc.
5. The proposal can be dealt with from within existing Repair and Maintenance Programmes e.g. Minor Improvement Works.
6. Proposals involve land in private ownership e.g. Sports Clubs.

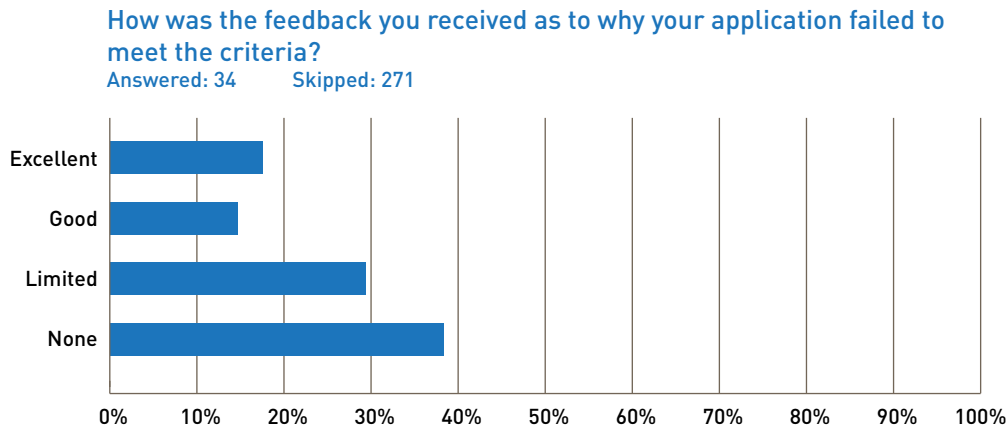
In total 54 submissions involving 18 proposals (in some cases submissions were combined as they addressed the same issue), were shortlisted for submission to and approval by the full Council. In three cases, the proposals submitted would have exceeded €300,000, but were deemed worthy of further investigation. In these cases, in order to remain within the agreed criteria, feasibility studies were proposed which fell within the financial limits. In the case of Youth Facilities, it was clear that more than €300,000 would be required. The Steering Group however agreed to put forward €100,000 in good faith towards a Youth Project to be determined.

The 18 proposals were put forward to a full Council meeting, where in one particular case, the access point between The Paddocks and Hillcrest, the Council decided to not put this proposal forward for voting. The reason was that only the previous month a motion had been passed closing this access and seeking a new future access in the general area following consultations between residents of Hillcrest and The Paddocks. The full list of 17 shortlisted projects agreed to go forward for public vote was:

1. Tree Sculpture, Waterstown Park, Palmerstown
2. Playground in Waterstown Park, Palmerstown
3. Youth Facilities Feasibility Study and Seed Capital
4. Allotments in Lucan
5. Men's Shed at Esker Cemetery, Lucan
6. New Pedestrian Bridge at Lucan Demesne - Feasibility Study
7. Improved access to Church and Graveyard at Mill Lane, Palmerstown
8. Feasibility Study for restoration of Silver Bridge, Palmerstown
9. Street Sculpture in Lucan Village Centre
10. Heritage Trail in Lucan
11. Volunteer Public Park Guides
12. Restoration of King John's Bridge Griffeen Park, Lucan
13. Christmas Lights in Lucan Village
14. Free Library Book Banks in public places
15. Study for Central Plaza /focal point in South Lucan
16. Multi-use Games Wall in Lucan
17. Fruit Tree Planting Programme

The Council endeavoured to contact everyone who submitted a proposal to let them know whether or not they had been successful, and if they were unsuccessful, why. Of the 34 respondents to the survey who answered the question as to their views on the feedback received, roughly a third found the feedback excellent or good, just under a third found it limited, and just over a third said they got no feedback (Figure 4.3).

FIGURE 4.3



Source: SDCC Have Your Say Participatory Budgeting Initiative Survey Results, July 2017

4.2 Strengths/What went well

Consultation/Workshops:

There was a general consensus that turnout to the workshops was above average for public meetings. The workshop locations provided a good geographical balance, covering the three main areas in the local electoral area.

The separate children’s workshop held in the Council chambers received very positive feedback. The children raised some excellent ideas, and these were fed into the submissions. All involved in this exercise saw it as a very positive development.

The workshops were facilitated by SDCC staff who were very well informed about the process. From the workshops observed, participants seemed to be very engaged and had lively and beneficial discussions in their groups. From the 120 people who attended workshops, 84 ideas were gathered. There was also an independent facilitator who ensured the discussion were not dominated by any particular people/groups and this was seen to have worked well.

There was a very broad range of submission received, resulting in 18 unique proposals.

Shortlisting:

A consultation portal already existed which was used for submission of ideas. The submissions were easily exported to excel format for the shortlisting phase.

The criteria used for selection of proposals were generally seen as comprehensive and acceptable.

4.3 Limitations/Areas for improvement

Consultation/Workshops:

It was widely acknowledged by the Steering Group members that while turnout at the workshops was somewhat better than expected, more could have been done to engage people, especially those who may not ordinarily attend such workshops. Councillors mentioned that it was predictable that Palmerstown would get the biggest turnout, as it is the most cohesive, longest settled community. Adamstown, as the newest and most diverse community, had a lower turnout.

As mentioned above, the children's workshop worked very well. Similar workshops could help with minority groups or less-well established communities. This initiative presents a unique opportunity for individuals to raise issues and ideas and secure funding for their communities. Individuals, therefore, need to be encouraged to participate and use this opportunity.

Some interviewees felt that existing networks such as the Public Participation Network (PPN), were not utilised to their full potential, and that an opportunity was missed as a result of their more limited involvement.

Greater clarity regarding eligibility of projects at the proposal stage could reduce the number of unsuccessful submissions. More one-to-one work with identified groups to engage them and get them thinking about possible projects before the workshops was seen as possibly helpful here.

Shortlisting:

Some issues arising from our observation of the process and interviews are:

- There was quite a high number of proposals excluded due to a number of reasons. The criteria developed for exclusion of proposals should be helpful here in future in heading off ineligible submissions before they are developed.
- As mentioned previously, a number of submissions were grouped together to form proposals on which the public can vote. Those who submitted proposals did not have a chance to review the grouped proposals before they were shared with the public. This may leave room for ideas to be interpreted in the wrong way. It might be useful to contact any person whose idea can be merged with another to ensure they are happy for this happen, and perhaps to agree on the wording of the proposal. As it stands, individual or community groups' names are not attached to proposals.
- The timeframe was seen by some as being quite restricted and this was seen to contribute to limited scrutiny of proposals. For example, one proposal was accepted, but subsequently withdrawn by the full Council before voting. This suggests more time for consideration and more detail needed on proposals to enable more consideration to be given to them.
- Providing feedback to all who put forward submissions was seen as very useful, but is also very resource intensive in terms of the time of Council staff involved. If doing again in the future, one suggestion was that it may be better to send a general email out with the list of accepted projects, and saying if anyone has any queries they can contact a named person.

5 PHASE 3 – SHARING OF PROPOSALS AND VOTE

5.1 Description

Sharing of Proposals

The full list of shortlisted ideas was published on a dedicated page of the SDCC website (www.sdcc.ie/haveyoursay) and circulated via a number of other means a few weeks prior to the opening of the public vote. This included most of the communication methods used for the consultation phase. A link to the full list of 160 submissions received was also available on this webpage. Each of the shortlisted proposals was listed with a short description of the project and an estimated cost, as shown below in Table 5.1.

TABLE 5.1 SHORTLISTED IDEAS

Shortlisted Ideas	Description	Cost
Tree Sculpture, Waterstown Park, Palmerstown	A sculpture will be commissioned to highlight the beauty of Waterstown Park. This particular piece of art will be carved out of a tree which will accentuate the natural splendour of the area. It will serve as a major focal point to attract visitors to the park, while blending in with its natural surroundings.	25k
Playground in Waterstown Park, Palmerstown	Waterstown Park in Palmerstown will receive a new playground. The community will benefit from an extra recreational space which will encourage families to make more use of the park facilities. Children can take advantage of the playground in order to spend more time engaging in active recreation.	120k
Feasibility Study and Seed Capital towards a New Youth Space for Lucan Electoral Area	A study will be carried out to identify the nature and location of a youth space within the Lucan electoral area. This will ensure that young people in the electoral district will have appropriate facilities to socialise. The provisional budget of €100k has been provided until such time as the final cost is known.	100k
Grow your Own Allotments, Lucan	Lucan will be provided with allotments which will be available to rent. These allotments are a source of affordable food production where you can grow your own fresh fruit, vegetables, and flowers. They also provide the community with a social outlet in which people can work and learn together.	60k
Men's Shed at Esker Cemetery, Lucan	The existing house in Esker cemetery will be transformed into a community space for the wider Lucan Electoral area. It will act as a Men's Shed in its primary function. The Men's Shed will be a functional space where men in the area can socialise and practice craft skills.	70k
Feasibility Study for New Pedestrian Bridge across the Liffey at Lucan Demesne	The overall objective of this study would be to evaluate the possibility of the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the River Liffey in the Lucan Demesne Area to provide further accessibility for the area.	30k (Feasibility Study)

Shortlisted Ideas	Description	Cost
Access to Church and Graveyard at Mill Lane, Palmerstown	Improved access to the church and graveyard at Mill Lane will be provided. This will encourage visitors, new and old, to this frequently visited historical site in the heart of Palmerstown.	10k
Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Silver Bridge, Palmerstown	This study in conjunction with Fingal County Council will examine the restoration of the Victorian Silver Bridge from Waterstown Park the bridge stretches across the River Liffey to Farmleigh Estate in Castleknock.	15k (Feasibility Study)
Street Sculpture in Lucan Village Centre	A sculpture will be erected in one of the open spaces available in Lucan Village Centre. It will commemorate a subject with strong ties to the Lucan area. This will cement the village as a heritage area and promote a collective community image.	25k
Heritage Trail in Lucan Village	Signage signifying the history and importance of certain buildings in Lucan will be erected. These will help signpost Lucan's rich history for visitors and locals alike. Information boards with maps detailing walking/cycling routes can also be made available.	60k
Volunteer Public Park Guides- Lucan Electoral Area	Funding to provide training for Volunteer park guides will be made available for public parks in the Lucan Electoral Area. Training will cover many topics including wildlife, biodiversity and local history. It will make great use of the park facilities in the electoral area and provide more accessibility for those who may not frequent their local amenities.	5k
Restoration of King John's Bridge Griffeen Park- Lucan	King John's Bridge in Griffeen Park is one of the oldest stone bridges in Ireland. The restoration will make the bridge a more prominent historical landmark and will add to the scenery of Griffeen Park.	20k
Christmas Lights in Lucan Village	Christmas lights will be provided for Lucan Village where the local community can avail of an end of year Christmas Lights Ceremony. It will create a festive atmosphere for residents and businesses in Lucan in the run up to Christmas.	17k
Free Library Book Banks in Public Places-Lucan Electoral Area	Free book banks will be set up in public places. These will allow the community to share books that they have finished by placing them at these banks. They can also pick up a book left by another community member to enjoy. It will bring people together over their love of reading and possibly even create new readers!	3k
Consultation Process for the construction of new Central Plaza/Focal Point in South Lucan	Lucan area residents feel that the area lacks a central focal area or meeting point. A Consultation Process will be undertaken in the area to identify potential locations and design for a new focal central public/ civic space in the South Lucan Area.	2k (Public Consultation)

Shortlisted Ideas	Description	Cost
Multi-Games Wall in Lucan	A Multi-games wall allows a variety of different sporting activities at one location regardless of your level of ability in that sport. It will provide a flexible venue where people of all abilities, will participate in sport while having fun and learning new skills.	100k
Planting Native Apple Trees, Lucan Electoral Area	Native apple trees will be planted throughout the electoral area. These trees will have a striking visual aspect, especially in autumn. These particular apple trees will also promote preservation of Ireland’s native landscape.	5k

The projects were set out in a ballot paper with use of graphics and text to make it as user friendly as possible (see Appendix 4).

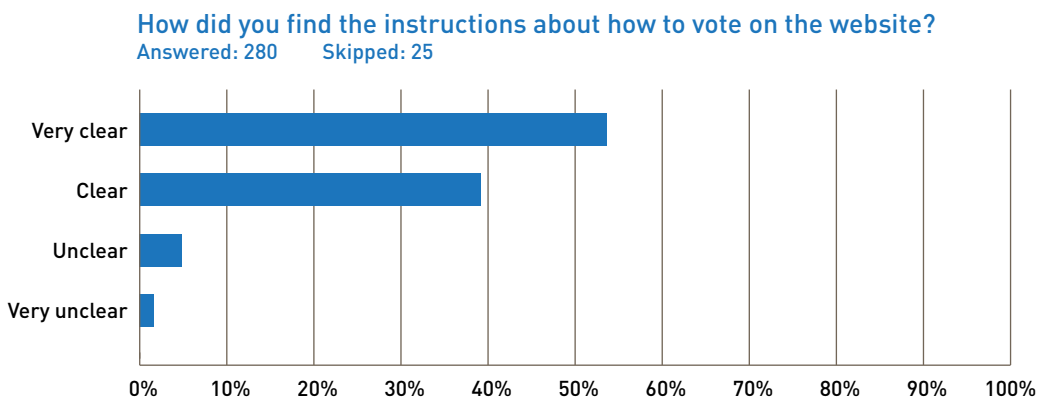
Voting

The voting stage was open from the 22nd to the 26th May online. Local residents were also able to vote in person at three voting locations in Adamstown, Lucan and Palmerstown from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursday 25th May. A fourth voting location, at Lucan Library, was also added to facilitate residents who wished to vote earlier in the day. There was no age restriction for voting and voters did not need to be on the Register of Electors.

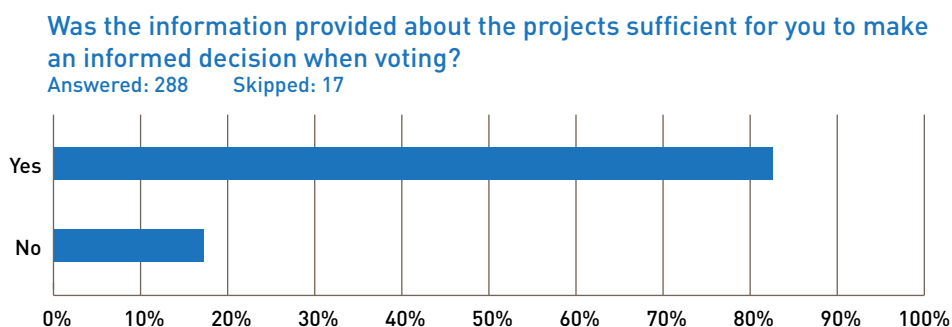
To try to discourage voting fraud, online voters were asked to input their email address and Eircode (which is unique to each address – a link was provided to enable people who did not know it to access their Eircode).

2,598 votes were cast, broken down into 2,344 online votes and 254 paper votes (this breakdown with the vast majority of voting online is not unusual based on other international PB processes). The online voting was seen as very accessible and easy to use. 92 per cent of survey respondents found the instructions as to how to vote on the website very clear or clear (see Figure 5.1). They also generally found the information provided about the projects sufficient. As Figure 5.2 illustrates, 82 per cent of survey respondents found the information sufficient to enable them to make an informed decision when voting; 18 per cent didn’t find the information to be sufficient.

FIGURE 5.1



Source: SDCC Have Your Say Participatory Budgeting Initiative Survey Results, July 2017

FIGURE 5.2


Source: SDCC Have Your Say Participatory Budgeting Initiative Survey Results, July 2017

The voting total of 2,598 votes represents 4.5 per cent of the total population of the Lucan electoral area. While in some ways this figure looks small, in comparison with other PB initiatives where information is available, it is respectable. In the United States, in Chicago (1.3 per cent), New York (1.9 per cent) and Vallejo (3.4 per cent), all places where PB was seen as successful, turnout as a percentage of total population eligible was lower (Office of the City Manager, 2014).

One issue raised which raised some controversy at the voting stage was the proposal for a Men’s Shed at Esker Cemetery. This is a small cemetery and some local residents and those who visit relatives at the cemetery raised concerns about the suitability of the site. This project, however, did not receive enough votes to be included in the winning projects.

The voting process resulted in the eight winning projects listed below in Table 5.2 (the voting results for all the projects is set out in Appendix 5). These projects have an accumulated value of €290,000. The results of the vote were announced at a public event in the Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley on Thursday 1st June. Similar to the launch event, this was advertised by a variety of means including social media, website, leaflet drops and local media.

TABLE 5.2 WINNING PROJECTS

Placement	Project	Votes Received
1	Playground in Waterstown Park, Palmerstown	1184
2	Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Silver Bridge, Palmerstown	1146
3	Christmas Lights in Lucan Village	1074
4	Planting Native Apple Trees, Lucan Electoral Area	933
5	Access to Church and Graveyard at Mill Lane, Palmerstown	867
6	Free Library Book Banks in Public Places – Lucan Electoral Area	864
7	Multi-Games Wall in Lucan	860
8	Restoration of King John’s Bridge Griffeen Park – Lucan	804

5.2 Strengths/What went well

Feedback from the Steering Group was overall very positive. The timeframe for online voting, being open for one week, allowed for a good number of votes to be cast.

The use of a range of communications channels to promote the voting was seen to have been appropriate. Use of the Lucan Link newspaper and newsletters such as the parish newsletter in Griffeen were seen as useful. The social media campaign was extensive and seen as important, particularly for reaching younger people.

Asking people to input their email address and Eircode as a verification process for online voting seems to have worked well. Initially, there were some problems with wrong email addresses, but this was rectified by adding a verification of email box. There was little evidence of attempts to manipulate the voting process.

The online voting portal was widely regarded as being accessible and user friendly.

The ballot paper used to set out the proposals was well received, and provided an element of familiarity in that people were used to the concept of a ballot paper.

5.3 Limitations/Areas for improvement

Around 30 per cent of the online votes were unverified – people who hadn't clicked on the link to verify their vote after they had been sent an email asking them to do so. Staff undertook an analysis of these votes, and found that there was no difference between the verified and unverified votes in terms of the proposals coming out as the winners. So a decision was made to include unverified votes in the total number of votes counted. But in the future there is a need to consider how best to address this issue.

The feedback regarding the paper ballot was good; the Steering Group were happy with how it looked and that it was easy to use. However, there was only 254 paper ballots cast which disappointed some of the Steering Group members. Some would like to see the paper voting open all week, in more locations, but recognise that a system needs to be in place to prevent possible vote duplication.

Some of the Councillors felt that, as might be expected, the winning projects were those who had the strongest lobbying groups behind them. Consideration needs to be given to how to encourage individuals and smaller/less established groups to submit their ideas and advocate for them. One suggestion involved introducing a 'hustings' type session before the voting stage. This would allow people/groups to 'sell' their project and explain in detail what it is, as there is only so much information you can give on a ballot sheet. Such processes are used in some PB initiatives in other countries.

The feasibility study for youth facilities did not get as many votes as anticipated, even though at the consultation phase it was a very popular submission. This could be because the proposal as it was presented was of a general nature (a study to be carried out to identify the nature and location of a youth space within the Lucan electoral area) and people would rather vote for a concrete service or product. The fact that the other proposal of a more general nature (Consultation Process for the construction of new Central Plaza/Focal Point in South Lucan) was not successful tends to support this point.

The opening up of Lucan Library as an additional voting location caused a perception amongst some residents of favouritism towards Lucan. A number of elderly residents of Lucan went into Lucan Library expecting to be able to vote and indicating they didn't want to go out to Lucan Sports and Leisure Centre in the evening (for various reasons), so the library staff got a limited number of ballot papers enabling them to vote at that location. The Library's Facebook Page then advertised that paper voting was available at the library from 10am to 7pm on the day of voting, leading to some complaints from Palmerstown that they were not getting equal treatment, as the three official paper polling areas were only open in the evening of the voting day. In practice, the paper votes from Palmerstown exceeded those in Lucan, but a perception had been created in some minds that one area had been given preference over another.

The look of the website for those who wanted to vote on mobile devices could be improved with regard to graphics and accessibility.

6 PHASE 4 – IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The final phase is to implement the winning projects and review the process. The design phase of the implementation programme is currently being conducted. This includes a number of consultations with the public (e.g. for the design of the playground in Waterstown Park). The projects will be implemented by the relevant SDCC department, with oversight and monitoring by the Steering Group. It is intended that the projects will be implemented within 12 months of the proposals being agreed.

While some commented that traditionally implementation can be a weakness, most of the Steering Group members seemed very confident that the projects will be implemented within the proposed timeframe. The involvement of the senior management team throughout the process is seen as a positive by the Steering Group members, and that they will drive the implementation process. The shortlisting process also ensured that all the projects presented to the public for voting were implementable.

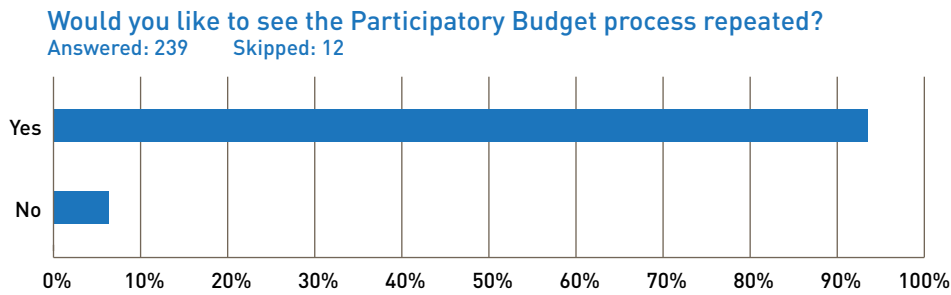
However, one Councillor interviewed noted that the public have differing opinions on how some of the projects will be implemented. This may be due to the limited detail presented on the ballot papers (for example regarding the exact location of certain projects). A number of Councillors commented that the public should be involved in the design and implementation of the winning projects.

7 MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The outcomes of the PB pilot exercise

The South Dublin County Council “€300k – Have Your Say” PB exercise has been a success and proved very popular. In response to a question in the survey of PB participants as to whether they would like to see the PB process repeated, 94 per cent said they would, and only 6 per cent were against repeating the process (Figure 7.1).

FIGURE 7.1

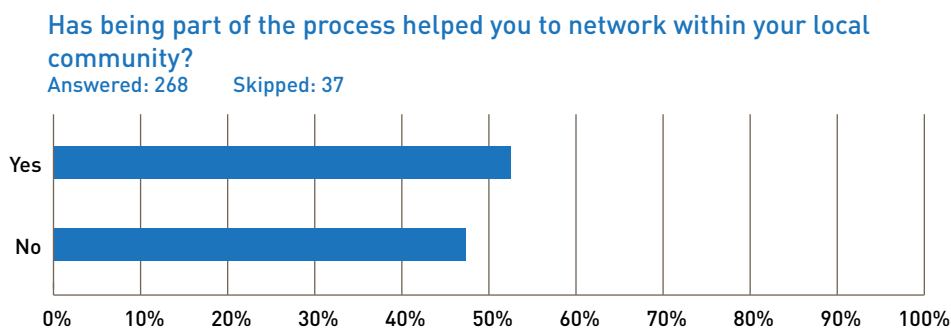


Source: SDCC Have Your Say Participatory Budgeting Initiative Survey Results, July 2017

The views of the Steering Group members were positive as to the outcomes of the process, and all would like to see the process repeated in some form.

One aim of PB with regard to participatory democracy is to encourage people to be more active and engaged in their local community. Just over 50 per cent of those surveyed said that participating in the PB process had helped them to network within their local community (Figure 7.2).

FIGURE 7.2



Source: SDCC Have Your Say Participatory Budgeting Initiative Survey Results, July 2017

The positive comments received from the survey of participants are perhaps well summarised by one comment:

A huge contribution to democracy. South Dublin County Council should be applauded, and the model tweaked and rolled out to local-authority areas and democracies everywhere. The voting went against how I voted, but I don't care - the feeling of participation, and the potential for future participation, is just great. This tiny step sets a great precedent and example.

Of course not all comments received were positive. The small number who had negative views of the outcome tended to refer to what they saw as the limited turnout and knowledge about the PB initiative in the local community, and the amount of information available on projects. And a lot of comments were critical about aspects of the process.

7.2 The governance of PB

The governance arrangements for the process were generally seen as broadly effective, with some reservations. The respective roles of the Council, the Steering Group, and community participation are discussed below.

The Council

The Council signed off on the process at each stage – selection of the pilot area, selection of proposals to go forward for voting, and the final selected projects and allocation of funding. The role of the Council in removing one project selected by the Steering Group from the list was broadly seen as the right decision but was not a role envisaged for the Council at the start of the process. This formal role of the Council as final arbiter at each stage should be formally noted as part of the process in any future iterations.

The role of most individual Councillors in supporting the PB process but at the same time not pushing for ‘pet’ projects or using the process for personal promotion was something commented on positively. It is important for the integrity of the process that it remains a cross-party initiative and is primarily driven by the local community.

The role of the Mayor in actively promoting the initiative and giving time to the process, both as a member of the Steering Group and in supporting the workshops and related activities, was important in giving the initiative status and in promoting PB.

The Steering Group

The Steering Group was generally seen to have worked well and effectively. The level of interest and commitment of members was strong. One member described it as one of the better committees they had been on.

It was seen to be important to have members from outside the area on the committee, and for it to be cross-party, to bring some ‘distance’ to their role, and independence and collaboration. The role of the two local representatives was also remarked on positively, particularly that they did not advocate or promote particular projects but engaged with the process in a positive manner and played an important role in promoting the initiative. In terms of future iterations of the process, however, some members felt that as local representatives are likely to come under pressure from local constituents, it may be better to have only elected members from outside the area on the Steering Group. Counter balancing this is the benefit of having local representation and knowledge, though this could be provided by input from the area committee.

The strong role and personal commitment of the mayor and chief executive was positively remarked upon. This gave added impetus to the process. While this was important to help ensure buy-in, in future iterations, this level of personal commitment at Steering Group level is unlikely to be feasible, especially if run in more than one area. However, high-level political and administrative commitment in some form is an important element of the process.

The main challenge for the Steering Group related to the tight timescale for the process. In part, as this was a pilot exercise that had not been done before, lessons learned from the experience should help simplify the process for future iterations. But allowing more time would facilitate more detailed deliberations.

Community participation

One issue that surfaced during the process was the role of the Public Participation Network (PPN). Some members of the PPN felt that they should have been represented on the Steering Group. However, the view of the Steering Group was that this was not an appropriate role for the PPN, whose main function should be to facilitate engagement by the community in the process. Should PPN members be engaged with shortlisting of proposals, for example, this may affect their relationship with elements of the local community.

More generally, Steering Group members and respondents to the survey felt that while there was good community participation, the level of community participation at the various stages of the process could be improved. This particularly applies to marginalised and disadvantaged groups who traditionally do not have high levels of engagement with the Council. The children's workshop, widely seen as an excellent initiative, provides one model for engagement that could be applied in other settings.

7.3 The PB process

While most people felt the PB process had broadly worked well, this was also the area where there were most suggestions for improvement. The time available for the process has already been mentioned above in connection with the Steering Group, but it was also a comment about the process more generally that it could have benefited from an extended timescale.

With regard to the initial consultation phase and workshops, one of the main issues raised was the scope for wider involvement, particularly of marginalised groups such as migrants or those that did not traditionally tend to engage extensively with the Council such as teenagers.

Giving more advice and assistance to individuals and groups in coming up with project proposals was seen as important. So was the early use of clear criteria to rule out projects that would not be eligible, to save on energy being put into proposals that would not have a chance of being shortlisted.

At the shortlisting stage, the need for detailed consideration of proposals to assess their practicality and deliverability has been mentioned when discussing the Steering Group. Public consultation on the shortlisted proposals arrived at might also be considered. The combining of similar ideas to develop workable proposals, while necessary, could cause some loss of engagement on the part of those submitting the initial proposals, and further thought needs to be given as to how to develop practical combined proposals.

At the voting phase, the online voting was seen as very user-friendly and accessible. Turnout for the paper voting was seen as low and somewhat disappointing. Limiting paper voting to one specified evening in three locations (plus Lucan library as discussed above) was seen as contributing to the low turnout, but was also seen as a way of helping ensure 'one person, one vote'. More generally, there are challenges associated with restricting the scope for multiple voting, and limiting voting to those living in the area, whilst opening up the process to include groups such as children and others not on the electoral roll, in the absence of a system such as national identity cards. It was not seen to be a problem in practice, but if extended, this is an issue that needs further consideration.

While some issues arose over certain proposals at the voting phase, the proposals presented on the final ballot were suggested by the public, assessed by the Steering Group according to agreed criteria, and approved by the full Council. The use of agreed criteria to guide the shortlisting of projects is important in ensuring there is no possibility or perception of favouring of, or de-selection of, proposals put forward by the public. Projects which meet the agreed criteria go forward for consideration on their merits.

With regards to advertising and communications generally throughout the process, having a clearly branded and consistent identity for the PB initiative was important and proved a success. No one communications channel was fully effective, and the range of channels used by the Council is likely needed, accepting that each has strengths and limitations.

7.4 Issues for consideration with regard to the future of PB in South Dublin County Council

The PB pilot in SDCC has been successful, and there is clear merit in developing the initiative to assess its wider and long-term applicability. All those interviewed were of the view that PB should continue and be developed further. Informed by this overview of the pilot PB exercise and the views of members of the Steering Group on the future of PB in SDCC, a number of issues are outlined below that will need consideration by the Council in the context of the further development of PB:

- The amount of money to be allocated to PB. There was broad consensus that the amount of money allocated was broadly correct, and that any future PB initiative should ideally allocate a similar amount of money to each of the electoral areas involved.
- The application of PB in one or more electoral areas. There were a range of views as to whether PB should be applied in one or more electoral areas, or across all electoral areas, and how the areas should be chosen.
- Resourcing the PB process. From a staffing point of view PB presents challenges, as it is a resource intensive exercise. Options for managing the administrative and technical support of the initiative will need to be considered, and will be one of the practical limitations on the scope of any future PB exercise.
- The length of time allocated to the process. There was a general view that some more time allocated to the process could have been helpful, particularly when shortlisting projects.
- The integrity of the voting process. The principle of 'one person one vote' is agreed as important, and the practicalities of securing this to the extent possible presents challenges both for online and paper voting.
- Project eligibility. The development of criteria for exclusion of proposals which took place should facilitate greater clarity here.
- Participation levels. Participation, both in putting forward proposals and with regard to voting was good. But of course there is room for improvement. Options for increasing participation when developing proposals, particularly of more marginalised individuals and groups, should be considered. Similarly, at the voting stage, means of engaging and encouraging more people to vote should be explored.

7.5 The extension of PB more widely across local government

Proponents of PB state that it has a number of benefits. One is that it assists more effective resource allocation, as it promotes projects that communities themselves have identified as needed and valued. A second benefit is that the very process of PB brings benefits to communities by providing residents with new ways to engage in decision-making that directly affects their lives. Both these benefits have been realised to some degree in SDCC, and suggest that the potential for using PB more widely across local government in Ireland should be explored.

In light of the commitment in *Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government* (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2012) to enhancing citizen engagement in budgeting, and the commitment in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan 2016-2018 to PB as a means of enhancing citizen engagement with budgeting at local government level, there is potential for the wider trialling of

PB initiatives. The structures and processes used by SDCC to manage the PB initiative provides a possible template for the use of PB more widely across local government in Ireland.

7.6 Concluding remarks

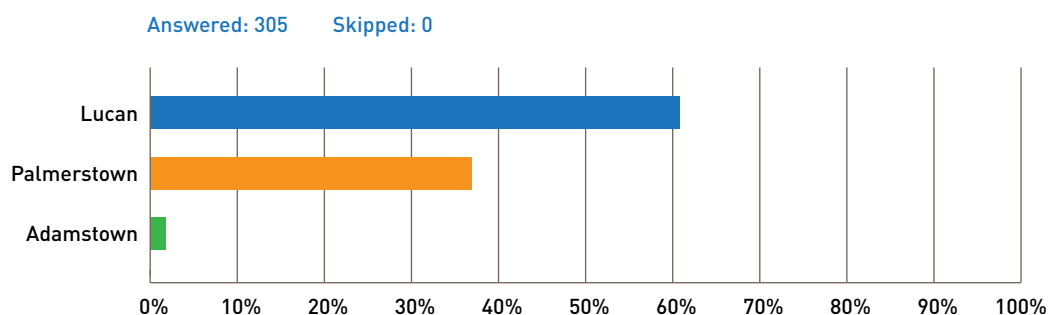
The “€300k – Have Your Say” PB exercise piloted by SDCC in Adamstown, Lucan and Palmerstown is the first PB initiative in the country. This report provides a comprehensive look at the overall process and outcomes up to the implementation of the projects, which of course will be crucial to the overall final success of the initiative. As with all innovations, there are some areas for improvement, but overall the report presents a positive picture of benefits to the local community. These benefits are both in terms of the projects identified, and in terms of participating in a deliberative democracy exercise.

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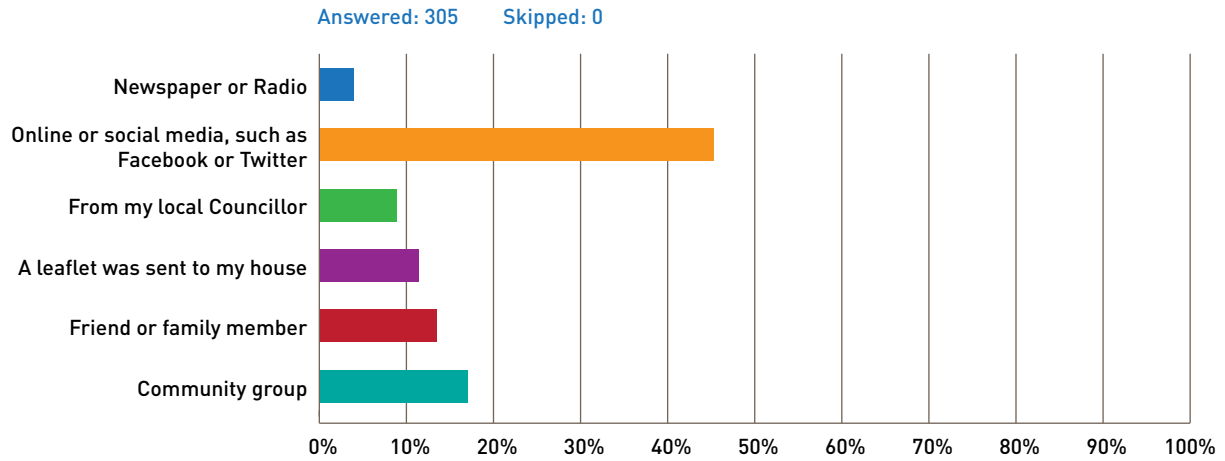
APPENDIX 1 SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING INITIATIVE SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 Tick Your Area



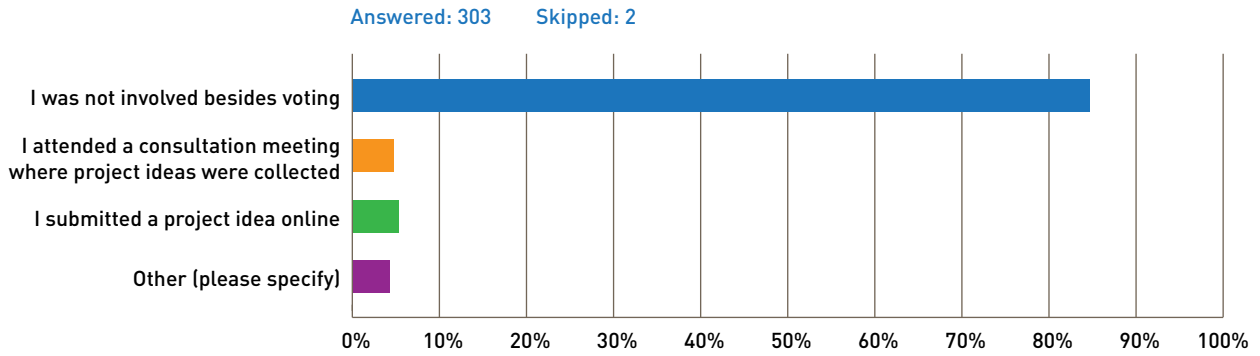
Answer Choices	Responses
Lucan	60.98% 186
Palmerstown	37.05% 113
Adamstown	1.97% 6
Total	305

Q2 How did you first hear about 300k- Have your Say?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Newspaper or Radio	3.93%	12
Online or Social Media, such as Facebook or Twitter	45.25%	138
From my local Councillor	8.85%	27
A leaflet was sent to my house	11.48%	35
Friend or family member	13.44%	41
Community group	17.05%	52
Total		305

Q3 How have you been involved in Participatory Budgeting over the last few months?

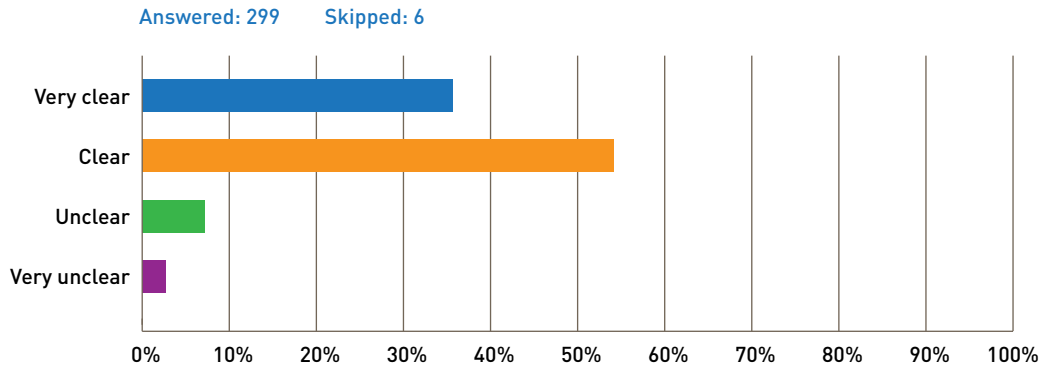


Answer Choices	Responses	
I was not involved besides voting	84.49%	256
I attended a consultation meeting where project ideas were collected	5.28%	16
I submitted a project idea online	5.61%	17
Other (please specify)	4.62%	14
Total		303

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	What? I haven't voted.	7/12/2017 2:09 PM
2	a small group of people were trying to get a mens shed started in the area	7/12/2017 7:15 AM
3	Hi up	7/11/2017 8:06 PM
4	I didn't vote in the end - meant to but left it too late!	7/11/2017 5:41 PM
5	I strongly campaigned against projects that were proposed for specific locations and were not in compliance with the Development and Planning both zoning and written statement for that specific areas. I made local residents fully aware where they knew nothing about the proposals.	7/11/2017 5:39 PM
6	I voted, encouraged others to vote and interacted with a councilor to highlight a project that may not be suitable.	7/11/2017 4:56 PM
7	V	7/11/2017 4:44 PM

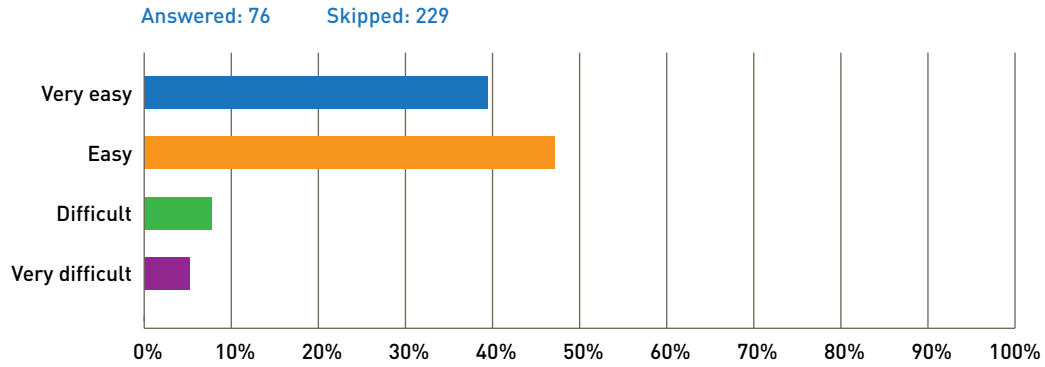
#	Other (please specify)	Date
8	Having heard of the project on Liffey Sound and having attended a consultation meeting, I submitted an idea online.	7/3/2017 9:46 PM
9	Attended a consultation meeting AND submitted an idea online.	7/3/2017 4:05 PM
10	I attended launch. I attended two public meetings. I researched my project. I went door to door with it. I approached local business. Huge positive feedback.	7/3/2017 2:12 PM
11	Added my voting selection then canceled when I realised my email was required. I have seen lists online of personal information collected by SDCC. No thank you.	6/30/2017 3:39 AM
12	Sees	6/30/2017 12:33 AM
13	Informing local people (who were mostly completely unaware of this scheme and its proposals) of one of the proposed projects as its proposed site was totally unsuitable - in a local graveyard.	6/29/2017 11:35 PM
14	Monitoring Committee	6/28/2017 4:16 PM

Q4 How was your understanding of the Participatory Budgeting process?



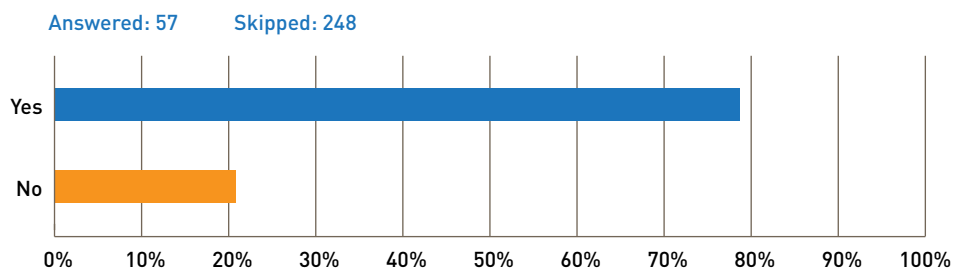
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Clear	35.79%	107
Clear	54.18%	162
Unclear	7.36%	22
Very unclear	2.68%	8
Total		299

Q5 If you submitted a project idea online, how did you find the process?



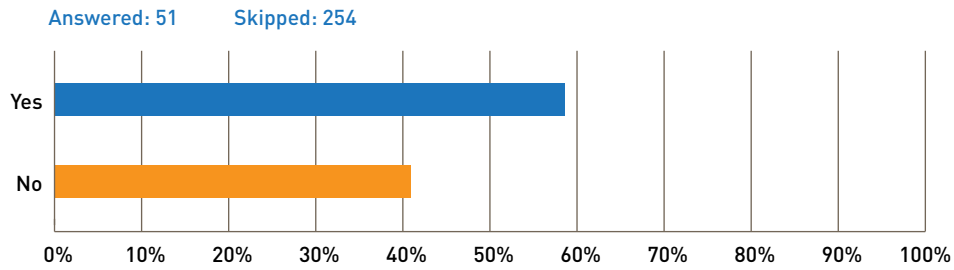
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very easy	39.47%	30
Easy	47.37%	36
Difficult	7.89%	6
Very difficult	5.26%	4
Total		76

Q6 If you attended a workshop do you think that it was a good forum to develop ideas?



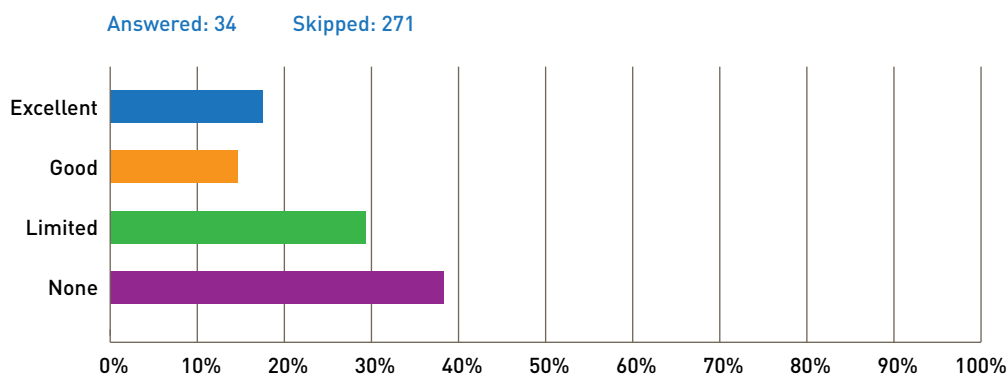
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	78.95% 45
No	21.05% 12
Total	57

Q7 If you submitted an idea, were you successful at the shortlisting stage?



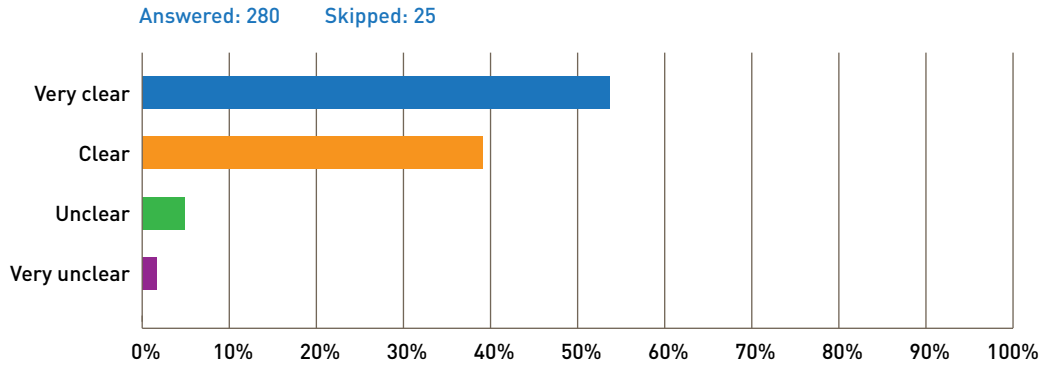
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	58.82%	30
No	41.18%	21
Total		51

Q8 How was the feedback you received as to why your application failed to meet the criteria?



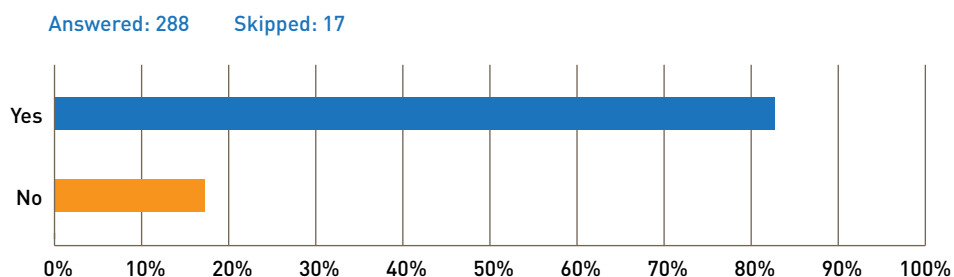
Answer Choices	Responses
Excellent	17.65% 6
Good	14.71% 5
Limited	29.41% 10
None	38.24% 13
Total	34

Q9 How did you find the instructions about how to vote on the website?



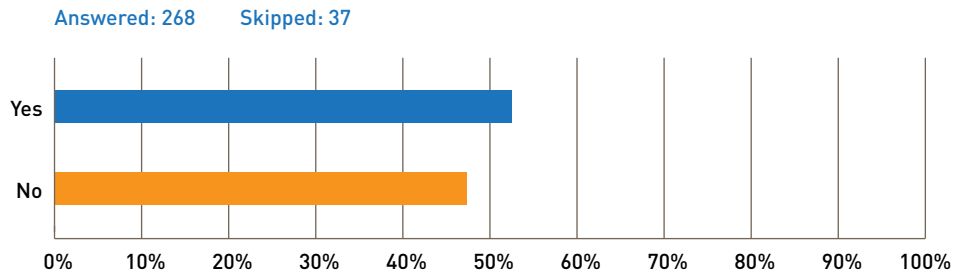
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very clear	53.93%	151
Clear	39.29%	110
Unclear	5.00%	14
Very unclear	1.79%	5
Total		280

Q10 Was the information provided about the projects sufficient for you to make an informed decision when voting?



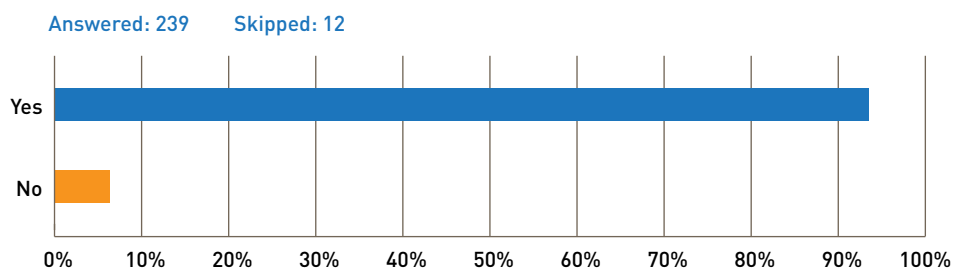
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	82.64%	238
No	17.36%	50
Total		288

Q11 Has being part of the process helped you to network within your local community?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	52.61%	141
No	47.39%	127
Total		268

Q12 Would you like to see the Participatory Budget process repeated?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	93.52%	274
No	6.48%	19
Total		293

Q13 Do you have any general comments about the process, what worked well and how it could be improved?

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	No	7/13/2017 9:41 PM
2	A lot of the questions above are not applicable	7/13/2017 12:32 PM
3	MORE ADVANCED NOTICE ABOUT HOW, WHEN & WHERE TO SUBMIT IDEAS FOR THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING SCHEME.	7/13/2017 12:21 PM
4	Information needs to be sent to each house outlining each project. I only knew about the process because of something I saw on social media, there are countless people who would have been completely unaware that this was taking place	7/13/2017 11:28 AM
5	Felt not enough time for people to know about it and insufficient promotion to citizens. Would have liked it to be discussed on radio and explained that it was for everyone not just specific organisations who could harness votes for their project.	7/13/2017 10:51 AM
6	There could have been more info sent to homes I only saw it on a fb post from Lucan life.	7/12/2017 8:16 PM
7	Improve the access to paper voting for thoes that don't have access to on line voting mainly the elderly within the voting areas	7/12/2017 6:05 PM
8	Haven't a clue what's going on here! I'd like to suggest a refurb of the tennis courts at Griffeen Valley Park..	7/12/2017 2:09 PM
9	More publicity of it.	7/12/2017 1:48 PM
10	just happy with it	7/12/2017 12:42 PM
11	No	7/12/2017 12:18 PM
12	I would like to be updated on when the projects are going to start. Would be good to know where they will go from here	7/12/2017 11:40 AM
13	The voting should have been proportional representation; i.e. we should have been asked to list in order of preference the various projects. This time, the "winning" project had a minority of votes.	7/12/2017 11:30 AM
14	It is evident from the results and feedback from voters that Palmerstown voters indulged in an 'organised' voting pattern -this due to various actions by the local Councillor and local groups. This resulted in a huge imbalance in the projects selected and many Lucan voters are disappointed & annoyed at the outcomes.	7/12/2017 10:18 AM

#	Other (please specify)	Date
15	Didn't think it was highlighted enough in the media, a lot of people I talked to never heard of it!	7/12/2017 8:18 AM
16	I was very happy to see this happen, delighted to be able to take part and have my say. And would love to see the process repeated. Thanks for allowing us the opportunity!	7/12/2017 8:00 AM
17	There is now a list of suggested projects from the area and this should be used when funding future projects - give it a two/three year implementation and then perhaps start again. I had big issue with a men's shed... felt it was exclusive to men only and rather discriminatory against the rest of the population..providing no benefit to women or children so would hope future listings to bear that in mind. Very little devoted to arts in the area - perhaps bucket suggested projects by theme / council initiative and ensure there is one from each category and provides a broader spectrum. Look to small tidy town winners Listowel to see the fabulous statues, art work and installations they have which really add to the town. Voting worked very well and was easy to complete.	7/12/2017 1:25 AM
18	The process could be improved if it was fairer and more transparent. Certain nominated projects were given appealing descriptions on the website, while the descriptions for other projects seemed to be written to purposefully misrepresent them and make them unappealing to voters. Councilors gave public backing to certain projects, and in one case a project was campaigning on the basis that group that was campaigning for it would be gifted property from the council after the voting had taken place. Despite the vetting procedures one of the winning projects was entered into the scheme even though it was eligible to be funded by one of the local development schemes.	7/12/2017 12:09 AM
19	I learned about this project through social media and I am a resident in lucan. I read nothing outside of what I accessed by my own volition. There was no leaflet drop in my area informing me, and no caller to my door. There are a lot of older residents in lucan/Palmerston who need to be informed via other methods.	7/11/2017 11:46 PM
20	Considering the population eligible to vote, the number of votes actually cast seems low, and it may have been only those with a particular interest who voted. For this reason, I wouldn't like to see the Participatory Budget process repeated, as it could very quickly become an extension of "local" politicking, where people only vote for things that will directly affect them in their area. I also thought it extremely disappointing that there was negative campaigning against at least one of the proposals, with people near Lucan graveyard being leafleted and encouraged not to vote for the Men's Shed proposal. Having worked with the unemployed and those suffering mental ill health, and being aware of the success of the Men's Shed movement, the misrepresentation was disgraceful and sullied the whole process for me. Since the council has already judged the other projects worthy of being shortlisted, they should really use any further available funds for those projects that remain from the shortlist.	7/11/2017 10:50 PM

#	Other (please specify)	Date
21	I would like this process to continue and for people to continue to be consulted as to where the monies would best be spent. It may encourage a sense of belonging in the area	7/11/2017 10:46 PM
22	I feel the community is being consulted on how their money is being spent in their locality.	7/11/2017 10:45 PM
23	I was disappointed that we in Lucan didn't do better, Palmerstown did very well but apparently they got on facebook and had leaflet drops which we didnt have, would do if differently again..	7/11/2017 10:21 PM
24	There should be a vote on some significant choice, say, setting overall spending priorities.	7/11/2017 10:02 PM
25	I was delighted to see simple win win projects like Christmas lights for Lucan etc but I think that spending money on projects that don't have an obvious value for the community should not be included... by all means spend what ever you can on restoring the silver bridge for palmerstown, building a bridge in Lucan demeaned etc but to spend €15k /30k on a feasibility study doesn't give anything back to the community, right there and then and is not tangible. some projects were not clear..I still have no idea what a multi games wall is!?	7/11/2017 9:56 PM
26	It's good to hear the grass roots opinion. Not just councilors.	7/11/2017 9:51 PM
27	No, it was great	7/11/2017 9:00 PM
28	I actually didn't hear of the scheme before the voting process. It should be more prominent in areas.	7/11/2017 8:48 PM
29	Great local government initiative that increases local input into the local area	7/11/2017 8:46 PM
30	Love it. As I'm time poor, I'm delighted I found time to vote on items I found important to enhance where I live.	7/11/2017 8:36 PM
31	It's a fantastic idea. Great to have some say in how local money is spent.	7/11/2017 8:33 PM
32	Making it more widely known about this procedure, please.	7/11/2017 8:26 PM
33	Some of the projects were not on equal par. There should've been a large, medium and small project shortlist, where applicable for each area to spread the wealth better. It could've been clearer which projects had a resulting action or outcome and those which were research.	7/11/2017 8:14 PM
34	I believe this opens doors and removes boundaries. It's very democratic	7/11/2017 7:54 PM

#	Other (please specify)	Date
35	More information about the projects and potential benefits of each. Should have also received a notification in the mail about it, voting numbers could have been higher with it	7/11/2017 7:30 PM
36	Yes,who or how is the final decision made on what gets approved & completed	7/11/2017 7:16 PM
37	It would be good to have an online suggestion box. Provide standardised templates, to allow users make suggestions under various categories, showing the needs, the benefits and impacts etc. of implementation of the matter suggested.	7/11/2017 6:43 PM
38	Overly complicated voting process and synopsis of the ideas as presented were not true reflection of ideas proposed by public. Poor editing by SDCC	7/11/2017 6:34 PM
39	I think that involving the community and giving them the opportunity to have a say in what happens in their area is a very good idea.Too often we only hear what some committee has decided is best for us	7/11/2017 6:29 PM
40	A great idea, should be done more often	7/11/2017 6:19 PM
41	I feel it was a very representative method to get community opinion and involvement.	7/11/2017 6:14 PM
42	No	7/11/2017 5:59 PM
43	Excellent way to inform and involve the community. I would go so far as to allow people to register on the SDCC website in newsletters and updates regarding their area e.g. Lucan or Palmerstown, for future projects and other initiatives	7/11/2017 5:41 PM
44	There is no opportunity for residents to have their say where a project directly demises their quality of habitation, after all this is tax payers money, hard earned and spent without consultation and any compliance with planning law!	7/11/2017 5:39 PM
45	More detail required about each potential project.	7/11/2017 5:35 PM
46	It was refreshing to see this platform being used for a uniformed community approach to decisions that are priorities in our area. Well Done SDCC	7/11/2017 5:27 PM
47	Very good idea. Local people voting on local issues.The views of the many being considered and not just those with influence.	7/11/2017 5:26 PM
48	Full breakdown of results for all projects should be published not just winning projects. I would like to see the breakdown as it would give an interesting insight to the communities priorities.	7/11/2017 5:13 PM

#	Other (please specify)	Date
49	I really like the idea of have your say. I look forward to seeing the successful projects coming to fruition. I think I would like to attend the workshop if it happens again. It's good to know what people would like to see funded, it gives more awareness of the needs within the community - helps see other perspectives	7/11/2017 5:12 PM
50	Broader and wider communication to encourage greater participation in voting	7/11/2017 5:11 PM
51	No	7/11/2017 5:10 PM
52	Question 12 is not clear. Are you asking if we'd like you to redo the process. Or do another one?	7/11/2017 5:10 PM
53	A huge contribution to democracy. South Dublin County Council should be applauded, and the model tweaked and rolled out to local-authority areas and democracies everywhere. The voting went against how I voted, but I don't care--the feeling of participation, and the potential for future participation, is just great. This tiny step sets a great precedent and example. I would like to be informed in future by direct email of chances to participate in local workshops, submit projects, and to participate in voting. A chance to contribute to decision-making on central funds (i.e. national taxation as well as local) would also be a great contributor to social cohesion. More participatory democracy like this please!!!	7/11/2017 5:07 PM
54	I think it was an excellent idea. True democracy in practice. I would very much be in favour of a wider implementation of this process for wider budgetary planning and choices.	7/11/2017 5:05 PM
55	Great idea, but seems by numbers not many people voted. It would be great to see more people get involved in the voting.	7/11/2017 5:05 PM
56	No	7/11/2017 5:02 PM
57	Initial feasibility assessment of ideas before finalising the list would be helpful to the process. Promotion of the voting process among young people (pre-voting age) would be great - our kids loved being involved in voting and took it seriously!	7/11/2017 4:56 PM
58	Why is public money being provided for Christmas lights in Lucan when the businesses are not prepared to pay for them?	7/11/2017 4:56 PM
59	Although I heard through friends, they used social media to encourage voting.	7/11/2017 4:54 PM
60	I thought some projects were over priced and I was concerned about value for money. The figures were too rounded. I would like to see exact pricing details for transparency. Lucan needs more advertising as the area is not as involved as Palmerstown. Lucan should get money allocated per head of population. Ring fence more money for more people.	7/11/2017 4:52 PM

#	Other (please specify)	Date
61	Voting was quite difficult as it asked me to submit a code number sent in a separate email prior to voting. Frustrating and wouldn't have gone through with final process other than I wanted it to benefit the local area.	7/11/2017 4:50 PM
62	Great initiative making use of internet media to enable community involvement in local projects. Seeing the projects develop and the results will add further value to this outreach. Well done SDCC.	7/11/2017 4:49 PM
63	A little more information on each project would be welcome.	7/11/2017 4:48 PM
64	Seems totally down to which projects manage to get most publicity in advance of voting.	7/11/2017 4:47 PM
65	great idea involving the community at grass root level	7/11/2017 4:43 PM
66	Very clear and inclusive process	7/11/2017 4:41 PM
67	Excellent idea. Well thought out.	7/11/2017 4:39 PM
68	Well it meant people had a chance to have an input into what goes into their communities	7/11/2017 4:36 PM
69	Projects should not be included which are scheduled for or approved for separate budgetary contributions. Also all projects should be assessed for suitability to their local community and potential negative impacts or proceeding.	7/11/2017 4:29 PM
70	Fantastic way of involving the people in deciding what is best for the area well done all involved	7/11/2017 4:18 PM
71	no	7/5/2017 6:52 PM
72	It was very worthwhile and definitely a success in my view. It needs to be publicised better to a wider community if its repeated. the criteria for selecting areas and the optimum size of the area should be reviewed to engage the public to a greater extent.	7/4/2017 10:29 PM
73	1. Although the idea is excellent, the level of engagement with it was disappointing. I think a specific area allocation, based on population numbers would have been more attractive- although I purposely spread my vote among the three areas, I would say I was alone? 2. The online submission of ideas was extremely difficult and could have put people off. 3. The cost of feasibility studies for worthwhile projects was a pity and, definitely ruled them out. 3. On time delivery of successful projects is vital for future of process,	7/3/2017 9:46 PM

#	Other (please specify)	Date
74	I feel if people want something done in an area they are required to show their beliefs and need. Making us part of the process and think about what we need and what is most needed in our area We had to show why we needed it and how it might work .There is no point in saying I want pool or library or park. When you were putting your application you felt you needed to think of others young and old. Our needs couldn't be selfish. Next week need to think of our adult members .Wheelchair accessible parks .seats with back to rest on. Somewhere for the men like a work shed. Working together you see as a horizon not a tunnel	7/3/2017 6:34 PM
75	Excellent innovative initiative - Thanks. I did wonder if some were likely to be funded anyway? Would love to see something even more ambitious next time round. Why not engage a community arts group to facilitate local people in a disadvantaged areas in exploring / creating a vision for their neighbourhood? So it would not be to produce a series of one off projects but something which could be the beginning of a regeneration. I am aware that the fund has a one year time-line but if a sufficiently compelling vision was created for a specific group, it could evolve over time, through support from other sources.	7/3/2017 5:29 PM
76	Would have liked to see greater efforts to develop some inter-community projects - apart from the proposal to plant apple trees across the area. The project seemed to become seen as a 'competition' between communities. Perhaps in future some monies from the overall budget could be ring-fenced for collaborative initiatives.	7/3/2017 4:05 PM
77	Appalling handling of process. Huge support at public meeting for my project and in community. Never explained to meeting why it might be excluded. I dont accept reason given. Both Lucan and Palmerstown supported community bus. Rejected on basis that NTA or other body responsible for transport. This is a farce as project is community enhancing with mental health incentive. Not a public transport service primarily at all. Frankly very disappointed as no staff or cllr present suggested that community bus would be rejected on that basis. Nobody else provides what I proposed. Also how come playgrounds which are already provided by SDCC included as breaking own rules which leaves me to believe whole thing is a farce as section 8 planning already existed. People are disgusted as you should have provided playground anyway. Not impressed at all.	7/3/2017 2:12 PM
78	Great idea but very short notice on voting dates, etc. Perhaps make this an annual event at the same time every year?	7/3/2017 1:18 PM
79	I know that many people could not find the vote link on the website.	7/3/2017 12:15 PM

#	Other (please specify)	Date
80	the email confirmation, should have been highlighted prior to voting on line. it appears that many votes which were submitted were not validated due to not checking for email from you to confirm vote. When asking young people to enter into such a vote it is important that it is made easy as possible.	7/3/2017 11:39 AM
81	I think the name of The of the person making the application should have been included The voting process was	7/3/2017 11:01 AM
82	Incomplete information. What is a games wall- no one agrees. Palmerstown playground was hijacked by one individual for political purposes.	7/3/2017 9:21 AM
83	I thought it was a great idea, and I enjoyed being able to participate.	6/30/2017 6:40 PM
84	Significant lack of knowledge in general community about this. Facilities for voting on line not generally known and idea of going to library or Local Community Centre offputting. Pressure groups such as schools effectively excluded general community input. Every house should have been leaflet circulated with stress on on line voting. Vote rigging a factor by people in know using ficticious or non resident family etc members	6/30/2017 7:57 AM
85	Most of the projects were individuals looking for a subsidy to their wage as opposed to having any true community purpose.	6/30/2017 3:39 AM
86	Only makes sense if its vote on projects for a particular area ie 1 of the 3 areas. Otherwise, it'll end up in most organised area winning entire budget.	6/30/2017 12:33 AM
87	More detail about what exactly is covered by the cost of the project should be given at the shortlist stage. Also leaflet drops to every household should be better organised - it was very hit and miss in our area. Projects that are not shortlisted should still be followed up by SDCC - they are obviously projects that the community wants. Paper voting hours should be extended in all areas. PPN should be involved in the Steering Committee.	6/30/2017 12:17 AM
88	If this process continues - please give the local people effected by these proposed projects the opportunity to be directly informed about them well in advance and also a facility to object to a particular proposal if they so wish. The only way that a person could object to a proposal this time around was to try and get as many other people to vote for the other projects - that's not right.	6/29/2017 11:35 PM
89	Give more of this choice to vote for change to residents of areas	6/29/2017 5:59 PM
90	No.	6/29/2017 5:01 PM

#	Other (please specify)	Date
91	I was informed by my local Facebook page to be sure to validate my vote via email. I don't think I would have done this otherwise.	6/29/2017 1:55 PM
92	It was a little complicated on the website link but understandable due to confirmation of address via Eircode. Otherwise very well done!	6/29/2017 10:15 AM
93	Objections to projects should be made possible.	6/29/2017 12:10 AM
94	I was a little unsure if it was for groups or individuals	6/28/2017 9:56 PM
95	<p>Very few people seemed to know about it. The adverts didn't catch their attention (too busy looking?) . Some thought it was for different area. I had to email the voting link to them in order for them to vote. There was no conversation about the pros and cons for each in relation to benefits for individuals/community. So, perhaps different graphics? Eye catching headline?</p> <p>More local conversation? Palmerston feels like miles away for some living in Lucan/Adamstown areas. Set up table at supermarkets? Unbiased discussion on pros and cons etc.. at the table</p>	6/28/2017 4:51 PM
96	Given more time than available this year, it should be possible to give more time for each stage and to insert additional stages, e.g. between submission and short listing proposals	6/28/2017 4:16 PM
97	I would like to see hustings involving all projects on the ballot paper before the voting period commences	6/27/2017 3:07 PM

APPENDIX 2 SAMPLE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING CAMPAIGN MATERIAL

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

Your Ideas.
Your Budget.
Your Vote.

You decide how to spend
€300,000 in your community.

www.sdcc.ie/haveyoursay

€300k
HAVE
YOUR
SAY.

Participatory Budgeting
for your community.

  #SDCCPB ADAMSTOWN LUCAN PALMERSTOWN

APPENDIX 3 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

YOUR COMMUNITY – YOU DECIDE!

€300,000 – Your Ideas – Your Call

What is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting is a local democratic process which facilitates citizens in a local community to directly decide how to spend a portion of a public budget in their area. It gives people direct power to determine spending priorities to improve their community.

How does it work?

In this instance South Dublin County Council has allocated €300,000 for the Lucan-Palmerstown area. Residents through a combination of locally facilitated workshops and an online consultation portal www.sdcc.ie/pb are invited to submit their spending priorities for this budget. This is extra discretionary money. In the first instance proposals will be assessed in terms of their community benefit. This assessment will be conducted by a panel of elected councillors and council staff. Selected proposals will then be costed and re-presented to the public on the website www.sdcc.ie/pb. The public will then vote for their priorities up to the value of €300,000. Following the closure of the voting period those proposals receiving the highest vote with a combined value of €300,000, will be chosen to proceed to completion within the following 12 month period.

Next Steps

The initiative was launched at a public event in the Clarion Hotel Liffey Valley on 28th February. Throughout the month of March the initiative will be widely publicised on local and social media. Workshops will be held at the following local venues to facilitate the generation of ideas:

- Tuesday 7th March: Adamstown – St. John the Evangelist School -7pm to 10pm
- Wednesday 8th March: Palmerstown- Palmerstown Community School - 6.30pm to 9.30pm
- Monday 13th March: Lucan-Lucan Leisure Centre - 7pm to 10pm

Where people are unable to attend workshops, they can make proposal online at www.sdcc.ie/pb

How do I get involved?

It is important that the local community use this unique opportunity to directly influence the spending of €300,000 additional money on proposals to improve your area as a place to live and enjoy.

You can:

- Attend a workshop and submit your proposal to help facilitate a joint community proposal.
- Go online at www.sdcc.ie/pb yourself or with members of your community to submit your proposals.
- Through your daily, community and social media contacts, spread the message that this opportunity is available. #sdccpb

FAQs

Is this new?

Participatory Budgeting as a concept is not new. It was first developed in Brazil in 1989 and has since been used across the US and Western Europe. This is the first time this process has been embarked upon in Ireland, so it is a first in this regard.

Does it mean extra money for my area?

Yes. This is €300,000 additional real money over and above the normal yearly budget for your area.

It is only for Lucan-Palmerstown?

Yes. There are six electoral areas in South Dublin County. It was decided to pilot this initiative in one area. Lucan was chosen by lot at a public meeting of the Council.

Is this not the job of Elected Councillors?

It is the function of the Councillors to adopt the Annual Budget of South Dublin County Council, including the identification of spending priorities. While Councillors are elected by the people to represent their views and work on their behalf, this is an ongoing process of consultative decision making. In this instance, the Councillors decided to set aside €300,000 extra discretionary funds to allow citizens to directly identify their own priorities for their community. This initiative is in the interests of enhanced democracy and citizen consultation.

Will this process be dominated by the loudest voices?

It is a valid concern in any public consultation process that certain groups already established may be better positioned to get their views across. Every effort will be made to ensure this process is fully inclusive, through open workshops and online consultation. In addition specific focus group meetings will be held with the active aged, youth, new communities and disability and community health interests. The public have a real opportunity to spend real money for the betterment of their community – so everyone is urged to get involved.

Why should I bother?

Participatory Budgeting gives you and your neighbours the power to improve your area as a place to live, work and play. It is empowering, civic minded and fun. It is also educational, fair and transparent.

What can the money be used for?

Local Councils provide an extensive range of services for the benefit of its citizens. A summary list of services is available here. Proposals for the use of the €300,000 may seek to extend or improve these services. In general, proposals should seek to benefit the community to the broadest possible extent, rather than groups, organisations or individuals. This is not a grant scheme and there already exists a wide range of grant schemes for this purpose, such as those listed below:

- Community Grants Scheme
- Community Initiative Fund
- Festivals and Summer Projects

When/How can I vote?

During March 2017 proposals are to be submitted for consideration. In early April 2017 proposals having been assessed and selected, will be costed and put forward for a public vote. This vote can be submitted online at www.sdcc.ie/pb. There will also be a number of voting stations set up locally for people to vote in paper format, if they do not have access to the internet/ computer. These locations and the date to cast your vote will be announced closer to the time.

How will I know the outcome of the vote?

The results will be announced online and publically at a community and media event.

When will the €300,000 be expended?

Within 12 months of proposals being agreed.

APPENDIX 4 BALLOT PAPER

South Dublin County Council - Participatory Budgeting

Lucan Electoral Area
Official Ballot Paper -
25th May 2017

Instructions

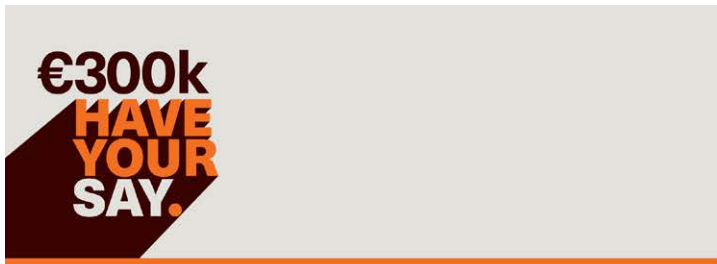
On the page you will see a short summary of each project and their estimated cost. It is up to you to decide which projects will be of most benefit to your community.










Please note that if your total choices exceed €300K in value we will only consider your choices in order of preference up to the value of €300,000.

Write 1 in the box beside the project of your first choice, write 2 in the box beside your second choice and so on up to the value of €300,000.

Title	Cost	Order
<p>1 Tree Sculpture, Waterstown Park, Palmerstown A sculpture will be commissioned to highlight the beauty of Waterstown Park. This particular piece of art will be carved out of a tree which will accentuate the natural splendour of the area. It will serve as a major focal point to attract visitors to the park, while blending in with its natural surroundings.</p>	25K	
<p>2 Playground in Waterstown Park, Palmerstown Waterstown Park in Palmerstown will receive a new playground. The community will benefit from an extra recreational space which will encourage families to make more use of the park facilities. Children can take advantage of the playground in order to spend more time engaging in active recreation.</p>	120K	
<p>3 Feasibility Study and Seed Capital towards a New Youth Space for Lucan Electoral Area A study will be carried out to identify the nature and location of a youth space within the Lucan electoral area. This will ensure that young people in the electoral district will have appropriate facilities to socialise. The provisional budget of €100k has been provided until such time as the final cost is known.</p>	100K	
<p>4 Grow your Own Allotments, Lucan Lucan will be provided with allotments which will be available to rent. These allotments are a source of affordable food production where you can grow your own fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers. They also provide the community with a social outlet in which people can work and learn together.</p>	60K	
<p>5 Men's Shed at Esker Cemetery, Lucan The existing house in Esker cemetery will be transformed into a community space for the wider Lucan Electoral area. It will act as a Men's Shed in its primary function. The Men's Shed will be a functional space where men in the area can socialise and practice craft skills.</p>	70K	
<p>6 Feasibility Study for New Pedestrian Bridge across the Liffey at Lucan Demesne The overall objective of this study would be to evaluate the possibility of the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the River Liffey in the Lucan Demesne Area to provide further accessibility for the area.</p>	30K	
<p>7 Access to Church and Graveyard at Mill Lane, Palmerstown Improved access to the church and graveyard at Mill Lane will be provided. This will encourage visitors, new and old, to this frequently visited historical site in the heart of Palmerstown</p>	10K	
<p>8 Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Silver Bridge, Palmerstown This study in conjunction with Fingal County Council will examine the restoration of the Victorian Silver Bridge from Waterstown Park the bridge stretches across the River Liffey to Farmleigh Estate in Castletknock.</p>	15K	

PTO



	Title	Cost	Order
9	 Street Sculpture in Lucan Village Centre A sculpture will be erected in one of the open spaces available in Lucan Village Centre. It will commemorate a subject with strong ties to the Lucan area. This will cement the village as a heritage area and promote a collective community image.	25K	
10	 Heritage Trail in Lucan Village Signage signifying the history and importance of certain buildings in Lucan will be erected. These will help signpost Lucan's rich history for visitors and locals alike. Information boards with maps detailing walking/cycling routes can also be made available.	60K	
11	 Volunteer Public Park Guides - Lucan Electoral Area Funding to provide training for Volunteer park guides will be made available for public parks in the Lucan Electoral Area. Training will cover many topics including wildlife, biodiversity and local history. It will make great use of the park facilities in the electoral area and provide more accessibility for those who may not frequent their local amenities.	5K	
12	 Restoration of King John's Bridge Griffeen Park - Lucan King John's Bridge in Griffeen Park is one of the oldest stone bridges in Ireland. The restoration will make the bridge a more prominent historical landmark and will add to the scenery of Griffeen Park.	20K	
13	 Christmas Lights in Lucan Village Christmas lights will be provided for Lucan Village where the local community can avail of an end of year Christmas Lights Ceremony. It will create a festive atmosphere for residents and businesses in Lucan in the run up to Christmas.	17K	
14	 Free Library Book Banks in Public Places - Lucan Electoral Area Free book banks will be set up in public places. These will allow the community to share books that they have finished by placing them at these banks. They can also pick up a book left by another community member to enjoy. It will bring people together over their love of reading and possibly even create new readers!	3K	
15	 Consultation Process for the construction of new Central Plaza/Focal Point in South Lucan Lucan area residents feel that the area lacks a central focal area or meeting point. A Consultation Process will be undertaken in the area to identify potential locations and design for a new focal central public/civic space in the South Lucan Area.	2K	
16	 Multi-Games Wall in Lucan A Multi-games wall allows a variety of different sporting activities at one location regardless of your level of ability in that sport. It will provide a flexible venue where people of all abilities, will participate in sport while having fun and learning new skills.	100K	
17	 Planting Native Apple Trees, Lucan Electoral Area Native apple trees will be planted throughout the electoral area. These trees will have a striking visual aspect, especially in autumn. These particular apple trees will also promote preservation of Ireland's native landscape.	5K	
Total (must not exceed €300,000)			

Please tick your local area

- Adamstown
- Lucan
- Palmerstown

APPENDIX 5 FULL LIST OF VOTING RESULTS

Project	Votes
Tree Sculpture, Waterstown Park, Palmerstown	577
Playground in Waterstown Park, Palmerstown	1,184
Feasibility Study and Seed Capital towards a New Youth Space for Lucan Electoral Area	656
Grow Your Own Allotments, Lucan	637
Men's Shed Esker Cemetary, Lucan	655
Feasibility Study for New Pedestrian Bridge across the Liffey at Lucan Demesne	630
Access to Church and Graveyard at Mill Lane, Palmerstown	867
Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Silver Bridge, Palmerstown	1,146
Street Sculpture in Lucan Village Centre	379
Heritage Trail in Lucan Village	688
Volunteer Public Park Guides – Lucan Electoral Area	526
Restoration of King John's Bridge Griffeen Park – Lucan	804
Christmas Lights in Lucan Village	1,074
Free Library Book Banks in Public Places – Lucan Electoral Area	864
Consultation Process for the Construction of New Central Plaza/Focal Point in South Lucan	584
Multi-Games Wall in Lucan	860
Planting Native Apple Trees, Lucan Electoral Area	933

