**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



**Minute of Environment Public Realm & Climate Change SPC Meeting held on 16th May 2017 in IT Conference Room**

**In attendance**

**Elected Members**

Councillor Pamela Kearns, Chair

Councillor Danny O’Brien

Councillor Ed O’Brien

Councillor Frances Timmons

**Sectoral Interests**

Connie Kiernan

**Officials**

Teresa Walsh, Director of Service

Chris Galvin SE

Mary Maguire, SEO

Sorcha O’Brien, EAO

**Apology**

Councillor Enda Fanning

Cathaoirleach Councillor Pamela Kearns presided.

**Item 1: Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on 6th February 2017**

The Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on **6th February 2017** were proposed by Councillor D. O’ Brien, seconded by Ms Connie Kiernan.

**Item 2: Review of Social Credit Scheme**

The following report was presented by Environmental Awareness Officer Sorcha O’Brien:

*A motion was referred from full Council to the November 2016 SPC meeting at which the following was considered:*

* *Continuous assessment of benefits and rewards available*
* *Promotion mechanisms*
* *Registration of new associations / committees (with PPN)*
* *Availability / distribution of materials eg bulbs*
* *Potential for expansion – non monetary assistance*
* *Potential for greater interdepartmental collaboration*

*At that meeting SPC members agreed to liaise with their local groups and associations in order to establish their requirements, and to revert back to aid determination of further potential for greater non-monetary assistance.*

*No further feedback was received.  However, an internal review of the Scheme was carried out in Q4 2016 / Q1 2017.*

***Participation / Registration of new groups:***

*The review established that there are 100 groups registered for the Social Credit Scheme. However only approximately 48 groups are active on a regular basis: availing of the scheme in some format on a regular basis through material provision and collection of waste post clean-up on a weekly / fortnightly / monthly basis.*

*There are also other Residents Associations / groups that have ad hoc clean-ups throughout the year, and which are supported with materials and collections post clean-ups (c 11 clean-ups per month).*

***Communications / promotion mechanisms:***

*The review established a greater need for information flow between groups and the Council which would:*

* *promote the great work undertaken by groups,*
* *promote the benefits available to groups through the scheme,*
* *establish points of contact,*
* *reinforce the terms of the scheme.*

*An email was sent to groups request before and after photographs from clean-ups and the details for the event being held. This information is now being promotion and advertisement through the communication of good news stories via social media.*

*Social Credit Newsletter is now in development for circulation twice a year which will focus on the good news stories.*

*In Q1 2017 all groups were also contacted to acknowledge and thank them for their hard work, requesting up to date contact information and reiterating the main aspects and guidelines for the scheme. The main points of the email were as follows:*

* *One nominated person to be the sole contact for the Council and their contact number to be used for collections and other queries*
* *Only Council clear biodegradable bags to be used at all times (all other bags black etc. will not be collected)*
* *Scheduled collections only – 2 week’ s notice to be given for all clean up’s and collections*

*This communication issued to 100 groups registered and 32 responses have been received to date.*

***Continuous assessment of benefits and rewards available / availability / distribution of materials / Potential for expansion – non monetary assistance***

*As groups develop and engage in the Social Credits Scheme more requests are being received for assistance with projects other than community clean-ups such as the develop community gardens, creation of flower beds and the removal of Graffiti. In order to facilitate this we are exploring procurement option for the following:*

* *Bird Houses & Baths*
* *Bug/Bee Hotels*
* *A wider range of flower seeds and bulbs*

*In addition to the above actions the Social Credit Scheme also worked on the following in Q1 2017:*

* [*Green Dog Walker Competition*](https://www.facebook.com/SouthDublinCountyCouncil/photos/a.398228806886509.93742.159457194097006/1483759538333425/?type=3&theater%20)
* *“Adopt a Bring Bank “ scheme was launched through Tidy Towns*
* [*National Spring Clean*](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/index.aspx?pageid=939&pid=37119&type=Press) *was launched in Spring clean month (April*
* [*Advertising all good news stories via Social Media*](https://t.co/6BIkBT88hU)

***Potential for greater interdepartmental collaboration***

*The Social Credits Scheme continues to offer support to all groups participating in the scheme and encourage new groups and residents to get involved. The scheme also continues to work closely with our Community Department’s Tidy Towns Liaison Officer to ensure that all Tidy Town groups have a full picture of the range of supports that are available to all groups involved in the social credit scheme.*

*The following additional supports have also been offered to all groups and are available on an ongoing/request basis*

* *Workshops eg upcycling, composting*
* *Information leaflets eg Waste Prevention “Hints & Tips “ booklets, Greener Gardening booklets, Green Cleaning booklet*
* *“Adopt a Bring Bank” scheme*
* *Stop Food Waste Initiatives*

*All groups can also get involved in Environmental Awareness initiatives, see exemplar list below, by running an event in the local community, for which supports will be provided by Environmental Awareness:*

* *EWWR European (Week for Waste Reduction) that’s held in November*
* *Stoop Food Waste campaigns are run throughout the year*
* *ECO week, we offer community workshops*
* *Nation Spring Clean*
* *Bulbs not Bonfires*
* *Green Dog Walker, hold a community day giving information and signing up new pledges*

*Further feedback via membership of this committee would be very welcome” End* ***of Report***

A discussion ensued with contributions from Councillor Kearns, O’Brien, and Ms. Kiernan relating primarily to the following and to which Teresa Walsh, Mary Maguire and Sorcha O’Brien responded.

* Positive impact on littering through engagement of groups in the scheme
* “Negatives” rather than “Positives” attracting headlines
* Application process – one page process
* Registration with PPN - structure with which members of the local community can interact with the local authorities ensuring that the community is involved and represented within the local government system
* Availability of Information Packs

**Item 3: Solar (Big Belly) Bin Pilot - Selection of location for On - Street Pilot**

The following report as circulated was NOTED:

*It was agreed at the February 2017 SPC meeting to pilot Solar (Big Belly) Solar Bins – one "On street" and one in a park location.*

*Funding has been provided in the improvement works programme for 2017 for replacement of litter bins and seating in Rathfarnham Castle Park and it was identified that a portion of this be used to carry out a trial of smart bin technology at this location, the extent and focus of the trial to be agreed.*

*It is now a matter for this committee to determine the location for the "On - Street" pilot.*

***End of Report***

Teresa Walsh advised that, subject to agreement of the meeting, it may be more appropriate to consider replacement of additional traditional bins (1 in park already agreed) potentially up to 5 on street - with Solar (Big Belly) Bins as part of a more comprehensive pilot.

A discussion ensued with contributions from Cllr Kearns and O’Brien primarily in relation to

* Suitability of location(s)
* Servicing
* Costs v efficiencies
* Potential impact on direct labour
* DLR Co Co replacement programme

It was agreed that Rathfarnham Village be piloted with 5 Solar (Big Belly) Bins, and it was also agreed to liaise with DLR Co Co who had already significantly invested in these bins.

It was further agreed that, given the level of investment required to enable this pilot, these new bins when procured should be included as assets in the SDCC insurance cover, and that the outcome of the pilot would inform whether or not a future replacement programme (on a phased basis) could be considered.

**Item 4: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2018-2021)**

A presentation was delivered by Chris Galvin Senior Engineer which focused as follows:

* Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000 and its 3 Cycles to achieve good ecological status in all waters
* Need to Develop River Basin Management Plans and the required public consultation and engagement process
* Learnings from previous cycle
* EPA characterization
* Significant pressures – where from
* Status and timeframe for Draft River Basin Management Plan – to be finalised by December 2017
* Objectives and priorities of the plan - Good ecological status for all waters
	+ Programme of measures
	+ Implementation strategy
	+ Role of Local Authority Community Waters Officer (LAWCO)
	+ Role of National Water Forum
	+ Role of Local Authorities
	+ Community Engagement / Public Meetings / How to input
* More details - <http://www.housing.gov.ie>

A discussion ensued with contributions from Ms. Kiernan, Cllrs E. O’Brien and F. Timmons which focused primarily on the following and to which Chris Galvin and Teresa Walsh replied:

* Delay with Cycle 2
* Relevant ministerial portfolio
* Liffey / Dodder/ Camac
* Priority focus – fish
* Complexity of urban areas / treatment options / “misconnections” - surface v foul network

**Item 5: Climate Change**

The following report as circulated was NOTED:

*Following the introduction of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2015, South Dublin County Council’s first citizen, Mayor Guss O’Connell, joined the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, who share a common vision that drives our actions to tackle intersected climate change challenges.*

*South Dublin County Council on instruction from its Environment Strategic Policy Committee, aligned with the three other Dublin Local Authorities and Codema are working together to meet our collective and individual obligations under the legislation to tackle Climate Change.*

*A non-statutory public consultation was held for the document ‘A Draft Strategy Towards Climate Change Action Plans for Dublin Local Authorities’. This process ran from the 20 September until the 17 October 2016, and 32 submissions were received in total.
The Environment SPC proposed the adoption of ‘A Strategy towards Climate Change Action Plans for Dublin Local Authorities’, which was adopted at the Council Meeting in February 2017.*

*SDCC must now produce an Adaptation Plan and a Mitigation Plan.*

 *Adaptation to climate change and the successful implementation of adaptation policy, is a task that involves all levels of government from local to European levels. At local level, our task is to focus on the implementation of adaptation responses. Strengthening our capacity to adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts by making our county more resilient to extreme weather events.*

*Mitigation to climate change tasks local government to make efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases, this can be achieved through improved energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy sources.

SDCC in conjunction with the three other Dublin Local Authorities and Codema are producing these plans. We are currently meeting all sections of the Local Authority and generating a list of action required to Adapt to and Mitigate the challenge of Climate Change.* ***End of Report***

**Item 6 –Flood Alleviation and Surface Water Schemes**

The following report as circulated was Noted

*The update on the flood alleviation schemes and the surface water schemes is as follows:*

***Ballycullen Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme***

*Following a number of flooding events in the Castlefield area, the Drainage Section of the Council has examined the flooding problem and after reviewing various options it has concluded that a duplication of the existing culvert is the preferred solution to alleviate flooding in the area. The contract for the construction of this scheme was awarded to Clonmel Enterprises Ltd. in February. Works are currently progressing on site.*

***River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme***

*Following the severe flooding event of 24/25th October 2011 the OPW agreed and provided the extra funding to undertake the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment & Management Study (CFRAMS) of the Poddle. The final report on these was forwarded to the OPW who has since approved the Draft Design Brief for the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme. The appointment of consultants is currently at tender stage through DCC and their framework contract. Tenders are due back at the end of May, this will be followed by tender assessment and appointment of the winning bidder in the summer. The scheme is estimated to cost in the region of €6 million.*

***Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme***

*The overall scheme for the Camac did not meet the cost benefit criteria to progress work on the river in its entirety. A steering group has been set up to consider works at specific locations on the Camac River, with a view to writing a brief for the appointment of Consultants to carry out the design of flood alleviation measures at these specific locations.*

***Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme***

*As part of the Dodder CFRAMS there is a proposed scheme for the Whitechurch Stream. The OPW have confirmed funding for the procurement of a consultant engineer for the scheme. We are currently drafting a design brief for this and will submit the brief when complete to the OPW prior to engaging the consultant through the DCC framework.*

***Surface Water Minor Capital Works – 2017***

*Provision has been for the following SW Minor Capital works and assessments to be carried out during 2017.*

* *Tay Lane, Rathcoole –* ***design re-assessment underway.***
* *Ballynakelly ‘Garage’ at Newcastle Manor, Newcastle –* ***Works commenced 8th May.***
* *Main Street, Peamount Road, Newcastle –* ***not commenced.***
* *Old Lucan Road, Lucan* ***– tenders received, contractor appointed, scheme to commence during school summer holidays.***
* *Ballyowen Lane, Lucan in conjunction with Public Realm and the Roads Department –* ***PR to carry out pitch drainage in advance.***
* *Templeogue Village – initial assessment and feasibility study in conjunction with the Roads Department –* ***Liaison with Roads department ongoing.***
* *Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham –* ***not commenced.***
* *Orchard Road, Clondalkin –* ***Works complete****.*
* *Nangor Road/Ninth Lock Road Junction, Clondalkin –* ***not commenced.***
* *Cookstown Industrial Estate, Tallaght –* ***Works Complete.***
* *Poddle Lakelands screen* ***– under assessment, screen to be replaced.***

***Ongoing works***

*Provision has been made for ongoing maintenance works to address pluvial and other flooding issues at various locations such as the following rivers and streams;*

* *Camac River*
* *Poddle River clearing*
* *Jobstown Stream*
* *Whitechurch Stream*
* *Owendoher stream* ***End of Report***

Chris Galvin Queries responded to queries raised by Ms. Kiernanand Cllr Timmons in relation to Camac Scheme and Fluvial events.

**Item 7 Teen Space - Update on commencement of public consultation**

The following report as circulated was NOTED:

*Provision has been made to initiate a countywide consultation process on teen spaces and facilities in 2017.*

*This study will examine the provision of facilities for teenagers in parks and open spaces in South Dublin County; including provision of Youth Cafés where appropriate within parks and open space locations. The Community Department is involved in this study with Environment Water and Climate Change. The study will report to the Elected Members as the study is progressing.*

*The study will include examination of facilities in relation to:*

1. *Active recreation*
2. *Passive recreation*

*The study will also engage in consultation on the provision of facilities for teenagers in our parks and open spaces with particular focus on:*

* *Teenagers*
* *Facility providers*
* *Relevant interest groups*

*The study has commenced with some background research currently underway to assess the current level of provision for this group.* ***End of Report***

It was agreed to use as many communication channels as possible in order to reach the target audience.

**Item 8 Draft Burial Grounds Strategy**

Mary Maguire delivered a presentation with focus as follows:

* Burial Grounds within the administrative area of SDCC managed by the Council
* Burial Grounds for which records are held
* Existing capacity at 4 cemeteries – Bohernabreena, Esker, Newcastle and Saggart
* Recent internal review – operations / costs / charges - rollup
* Objectives of draft strategy
* Competitive analysis / Future development

It was agreed that further analysis is required in relation to the potential impact of any changes / roll up of existing fees before any recommendations might be made.

**Item 9 Graffiti Removal Protocol**

The following report as circulated was NOTED:

*Reports of graffiti are sent to our Litter Warden for the area to inspect with a view to establishing whether the graffiti is on (a) utility box (b) private property or (c) public property.*

*A)    If graffiti is on a utility box the Litter Warden Service identifies the owner (ESB, Eircom, Bord Gais, etc.) and the location is then referred to the relevant utility company requesting removal in line with MOU.*

*B)    If graffiti is on private property a notice issues to the owner requesting removal.  The Protocol published with the Litter Management Plan 2015-2019 provided for the potential to engage with private property owners to assist with removal of graffiti subject to agreement on costs and insurance indemnity.  However, to date there has been no take up on this proposal.*

*C)    If graffiti is on public (Council) property the Council arranges for removal.* ***END OF REPORT***

Mary Maguire and Teresa Walsh responded to queries raised during the discussion that ensued, in particular in relation to the blight of graffiti on utility boxes and the potential to develop street art / street canvas in similar fashion to that developed in certain areas of the city.

It was noted that the concept of placing art of utility boxes in the County is currently being explored and liaison took place between SDCC and DCC during which it has been established that, based on their (DCC) approach, the project would necessitate the consideration of budgetary and procurement requirements, planning permission requirements, insurance requirements, cross departmental liaison and external stakeholder collaboration.

It is not possible to initiate such a scheme during 2017, however, the position will remain under review in terms of potential for 2018 or further years.

The meeting concluded at 19.25