COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



**Report of Environment Public Realm & Climate Change SPC Meeting held on 1st May 2018 in IT Conference Room**

**In attendance**

**Elected Members**

Councillor Pamela Kearns (Chair)

Councillor Brian Lawlor

Councillor Francis Timmons

Councillor Danny O’Brien

Councillor Ed O’Brien

Councillor Rob Russell

**Sectoral Members**

Connie Kiernan

**Officials**

Teresa Walsh, Director of Service

Leo Magee, Senior Engineer

Chris Galvin, Senior Engineer

Michael McAdam, Senior Engineer

Mary Maguire, Senior Executive Officer

Sorcha O’Brien, Environmental Awareness Officer

Laurence Colleran, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent

**Apology**

John Farrell

**Item 1: Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on 6th February 2018**

The Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on **6th February 2018,** were proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor D. O’Brien

**Item 2: Update on Eastern Midlands Waste Management Plan**

The following report as circulated was presented by Senior Engineer, Leo Magee:

**Current position – Summary**

* Following a review of the regional structures for waste management planning in Ireland in 2012 the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government at the time introduced changes to those regional structures reducing the 10 waste regions as existed previously to 3 currently – the Southern Region, the Connaught Ulster region and the Eastern Midlands region (which includes the Dublin LAs).
* The Eastern Midlands Region Waste Management Plan for the period 2015 to 2021 was adopted in 2015 by all 12 member counties of the Eastern Midlands Waste Region (Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin, Louth, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Offaly, Meath, Wicklow and Westmeath County Councils).
* A regional office has been established by each of the 3 waste regions to co-ordinate the approach to waste management planning across much larger regions which exist now under the new regional structures. The Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Office (EMRWO) is based in Dublin City Council and has 4 staff which includes the role of a regional coordinator.
* A similar approach has been taken to the specific area of waste licensing and enforcement within each waste region with a nominated authority acting as the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) and in the Eastern Midlands region the WERLA is also run by Dublin City Council.
* The WMP 2015 to 2021 contains three overarching targets as well as a large number of policy statements and policy actions to be taken in the implementation of the plan. The overarching waste targets are as follows :
	1. A 1% reduction per annum in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the period of the plan,
	2. Achieve a recycling rate of 50% of managed municipal waste by 2020, and
	3. Reduce to 0% the direct disposal of unprocessed residual municipal waste to landfill from 2016 onwards in favour of higher value pre-treatment processes and indigenous recovery practices.

Current status in relation to these 3 targets is as follows –

* 1. The most recent available waste statistics (2014) show that waste generated per household was still increasing at that time.
	2. The most recent available statistics show the recycling rate for managed municipal waste at 42% for the Eastern Midlands Region.
	3. As the most recent waste report available is for 2014 and this indicator is to be measured from 2016 onwards, it is not possible to assess the current position.
* The WMP includes a requirement for annual reporting on activity over the previous 12 months with regard to implementation of the plan and the achievement of it’s targets and objectives. The most recent WMP annual report available was produced for the 2015/2016 period and was based on the 2014 Annual Waste Report data produced by the EPA. Completion of the annual WMP report for 2016/2017 is awaited, pending the publication of the most recent validated waste statistics by the EPA, and it is expected that the WMP report therefore will be available in June. A further presentation can be made to the SPC once that report is available.
* A summary of the validated 2014 waste data is as follows –
1. Total household waste managed in the EM regions was 722,544 tonnes
2. Total household waste managed and directed to recycling/recovery 72% of the above
3. Total household waste managed and disposed 28% of total
4. Households with an integrated waste collection service 84% of total
5. Households availing of a 3 bin service 45%
6. Household WEEE recovered per person in the region 6.05kg
7. Total household waste managed per household 914kg
8. Total household waste managed per person 0.327kg
9. Civic amenity sites in the region 31
10. Quantity of waste accepted at these 20,569 tonnes
11. Bring bank sites in the region 597
12. Quantity deposited at these 36,147 tonnes.

**Current issues**

The following is an overview of current issues being considered/progressed within the Eastern Midlands region at the present time, some of these are national issues and some local:

**Waste collection charges**

* In June 2017 the government announced an end of flat rate charging for kerbside waste collection, with flat charges due to be phased out over a 12 month period from Autumn 2017 to Autumn 2018.
* The date of October 2018 was set as the date for completion of the transition from flat charging to pricing plans.
* The new charge is to be based on a per weight or per lift charge and is to include a weight allowance. Some service providers also charge a standing or service charge.
* It is at the discretion of the service provider whether they will charge separately for the green or brown bins (dry recyclables and organic waste bins) or if they wish to bundle these charges.
* The majority of households nationally will not be affected by this change from flat charging as they are already on payment plans of this nature.
* Government have established a pricing watchdog to monitor the situation regarding waste charging.
* The previous plan, in 2016, to introduce a mandatory pay by weight system nationally has been scrapped.
* It was also intended to introduce pay by weight at civic amenity sites, to create a level playing field in waste charging, and this has been put on hold for now.
* It was also intended to introduce a national database for the compilation of information regarding the use of all kerbside collection services and CA services and this has also been put on hold for now.

**Waste treatment and disposal capacity**:

The options for treatment of residual MSW in 2018 are as follows:

 Landfill available for Municipal Waste 378,000 tonnes

 WTE in Ireland 811,000 tonnes

 Export to WTE (Secured) 260,000 tonnes

 SRF to Cement Kilns 220,000 tonnes

 Total expected capacity 1,669,000 tonnes

The projected generation of Residual MSW for 2018 is as follows:

Projected **Total** Municipal Waste Generation 3,130,000 tonnes

Projected Municipal Waste **Recycling** Rate 46%

Projected Municipal Waste **Recycling** tonnage 1,439,800 tonnes

**Residua**l MSW after recycling 1,690,200 tonnes

This suggests that there will be a deficit in capacity of over 20,000 tonnes.

**Historic Landfills:**

*EM Waste Management Plan objective G2.2 - Each Region is to develop and agree a road map prioritising for investigation and remediation the ranked landfills (taking into account the scale of the risks and impacts on the environment).*

Work on investigation of these sites progressed during 2017, two of these sites were in the SDCC functional area, and funding was provided by DCCAE for these investigations. Current legislation requires that these sites are progressed through site investigation and environmental risk assessment, application to the EPA for a certificate of authorisation for each site and remediation of the site if required. There has been a delay in processing of Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) applications by the EPA as a result of which no certs have been issued by them in recent times. This bottleneck needs to be overcome if progress is to be made on remediating the historical landfills.

**C&D Waste:**

* Additional license applications granted by EPA have ensured sufficient capacity for clean soil and stone (inert)
* Article 27 notifications may have diverted material away from licensed facilities (1.5 million tonnes approx.)
* EPA have issued guidance manual for Article 27 notifications, see summary below
* Difficulties accessing disposal capacity for fines and non haz-non inert soils (ideally a dedicated lined landfill is required for this)

**Article 27 EPA Guidance**

**EPA November 2017 Guidance on Article 27 Notifications for Soil & Stone: Pertinent Points**

The guidance document sets out the EPA’s current position, in light of a significant number of notifications to the EPA in recent times, and offers advice and guidance to stakeholders.

* Notifiers should wait for the EPA to declare their position; a determination would result in already moved material having to be dealt with as a waste in accordance with waste legislation.
* Only the producer of the waste can make a notification, not hauliers.
* Precautionary Principle is central: acceptable sites must have planning permission as well as a complete and specific environmental assessment in place.
* EPA has taken the position that quarries, or similar voids, will not be considered as destinations for notified soil & stone at all, even if planning permission plus complete and specific environmental assessment is in place. Position is that such activity requires the scrutiny and control of a waste authorisation. However, this is subject to consultation and may not prove possible to implement in all cases.
* Timing is very important; ideally producers should not start producing the by-product until the EPA have declared their position. Producers should act early and prepare an Article 27 notification during the preliminary stages of a project.
* The scope of an acceptable Article 27 notification is narrow and producers ought to consider the alternatives (such as waste authorised end destinations) which may prove more beneficial and cost effective ultimately.
* Material must be clean, green field soil & stone and importantly, also free from invasive species.
* Acceptable for notified material to go to an authorised waste facility, but the tonnages would be counted within the facilities authorised limits (pointless to go to the bother of notifying).

**Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Template**

* Work has been carried out to prepare a waste presentation bye laws template which can be used across all 3 waste regions, along with a guidance document and FAQ sheet.
* These documents have now been examined and approved by legal counsel.
* Agreement has been reached that each local authority will now proceed to carry out the statutory processes to adopt these and this includes public consultation.

**Waste Management Facility Siting Criteria:**

*EM Waste Management Plan objective G.3.1* *- Prepare Siting Guidelines for waste facilities and review general environmental protection criteria as set down in the waste plan.*

Detailed discussions were had with DCCAE as well as DHPLG on the matter of criteria for the siting of waste management facilities which would be agreed and adopted nationally and implemented in a consistent and uniform manner across all 3 waste regions. The main issues addressed in the siting guidelines are as follows -

1. Guideline Setback Distances Between Principal Processing Area of the Facility and residential areas,
2. Guideline Setback Distances Between Principal Processing Area of the Facility and Business/Industry, and
3. Guideline Distance from National Road Network.

Consultation across the regions has been carried out and the siting criteria document is in the process of being finalised. The options for adopting and implementing the siting guidelines have been considered, the preferred option is by way of a joint circular from DCCAE and DHPLG. Target date for implementing the guidelines was Q1 2018.

**Regional Enforcement (WERLA)**

2017 was the WERLAs first full year of operations, established in early 2016. Good relationships with the waste enforcement officers in the region have been developed.

* Household Brown Bin: the roll out of the brown bin was a focus, with use of the Food Waste Regs to issue notices to non-compliant collectors. Mr White thanked the local authority enforcement officers for pushing this.
* Tyres: The new tyre regulations came into force on 1st October. The WERLAs alongside Repak ELT participated in five national roadshows with the industry to highlight retailer/producer obligations. The industry is saying that enforcement is critical. The WERLAs focus has been mainly on the major tyre operators where the biggest impact can be made. Enforcement will continue in 2018.
* ADI: there will be one tranche next year. In 2018, it will be the same initiative as before, despite requests from the LAs for changes, exception being the one tranche instead of two. In response to a question from Martin Murray on unused grants Mr White will request LA’s to ensure that they will spend allocated funds as by end of year end, they cannot be re-allocated.
* C&D / Article 27: A meeting was held by the WERLA with reps from the Operations Group to make a submission to the EPA on their draft policy; however the date for submissions had passed. EMWERLA will now meet with other two WERLA’s to make a joint submission on behalf of LA’s to the DCCAE. Waste enforcement cannot deal with this on its own and there is a need for Planning Authorities to be more involved at an earlier stage in the planning process. The WERLA’s will be developing guidance in early 2018 to ensure a standardised approach surrounding C&D Waste Plans and their enforcement. C&D waste movement needs to address at places of origin and destination and LA’s need to work together on this.
* Multi-agency operations: it’s recognised that waste crime is a lucrative business and not enough impact is being made yet to tackle it. It needs more local intelligence. It is being taken very seriously by government and internationally, Interpol. Structures have been put in place and this work will continue in 2018.
* General Review: Ireland was assessed by the European Commission with respect to the State’s performance in dealing with environmental crime - Dept. Justice, NTFSO, EPA and LAs; more to come in March/April. The Commission was impressed with a lot of what they saw, but expect they will point out where we can do better, illustrate how some things are done better in other countries.
* National Enforcement Priorities for 2018: These have already been included in the RMCEI work plans of local authorities for 2018. They are:
	+ *Illegal dumping including C&D waste*: will look at C&D waste plans and develop standardised approach including inspections at origin and destination sites.
	+ *Household and commercial waste management compliance*
	+ *Waste tyres*: will give good focus to this in Q1, to build momentum and get producers to register with Repak and get on board with the scheme.
	+ *Unauthorised sites of concern which require a multi-agency response*: for example the Ferry’s site in Donegal. The WERLA is assisting the local authorities with these. There is precedent there now for how to deal with these sites. Mr White advised that it is best to deal with these sites early on and encouraged the local authorities to advise the WERLA of any sites that they may become aware of as soon as possible.

**2018 EMRWO Work Programme**

## Plan Implementation

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter4** |
|  | Collate & analyse 2015/16 Waste Data for all waste streams |  |
|  | Conduct in depth validations of AER Returns of major collectors |  |  |
|  | Publish Annual Report 2017 |  |  |
| Co-Ordinate Bye-Law Adoption process in each Local Authority |

### Prevention

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
| Develop & rollout National Waste Campaigns in conjunction with other Regions |
| Complete Bring Bank Rebranding Programme |
|  | Develop & rollout Household Hazardous Waste Campaigns |
| Co-Ordinate Regional Reuse Month/EWWR/Conscious Cup in conjunction with other Regions |
| Further develop programme with Local Authorities to reduce LA HQ waste by 10% |

### ****RESOURCE EFFICIENCY & CIRCULAR ECONOMY****

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
| Co-ordinate/ rollout of the EcoMerit Programme |
| Prepare/ disseminate a guidance note for reuse & preparation for reuse activities |
| Develop Resource Efficiency Pack for SME |  |
| Manage Partnerships with SMILE & Rediscovery Centre |

### CO-ORDINATION

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
| Attend/Participate at all relevant National Group Meetings |
| Co-Ordinate Regional Steering Groups (Directors of Services, EAO & Operational). |
| Maintain & Manage Regional Office( Staffing, Budget etc.) |
| Deliver agreed priority training courses |
| Explore partnership opportunities for European & National Funding calls |

### INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
| Brief LA Planning Departments |  |  |  |
| Monitor ongoing capacity for MSW/C & D  |
| Advance all recommendations in National Capacity Report for MSW |
| Co-Ordinate preparation of National Report on Civic Amenity Sites |  |
| Pursue contingency supply of MSW capacity for the State |
| Undertake site visits for information purposes |
| Meet/Consult with EPA, ABP & DCCAE & other stakeholders as appropriate |
| Co-ordinate the standardisation of facility authorisations |
|  |  | Conduct Infrastructural Capacity analysis for Annual Waste Report |  |

### ****PROTECTION****

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 |
| Advance Roadmap for Historic Landfills/Illegal Sites remediation with EPA/DCCAE |
| Assist NWCPO with creation & maintenance of new historic landfill database |
| Finalise & publish siting criteria for waste facilities |  |  |
| Undertake research programme to address areas of low collection coverage |
|  |  | Review operation of AA Screening Template; arrange further training |  |

### ****OTHER WASTE STREAMS****

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
| Investigate / Prepare for rollout of National Schemes for paint/mattresses |
|  | Prepare & disseminate information re hazardous waste for LA websites |  |  |
| Attend working group/network events for Producer Responsibility Schemes |

### ENFORCEMENT

* Work plan developed by WERLA in accordance with National Waste Priorities & policy actions outlined in Regional Waste Plan.

## PUBLICATIONs & COMMUNICATIONS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
| Developing communications strategy |  |  |
| Manage preparation & storage of communications |
| Website & Social Media management |
| Co-ordinate & prepare submissions |
| Quarterly Newsletter/Weekly tweet campaign |

## STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
|  | Develop Stakeholder Register |  |  |
| Attend Working Groups & Taskforces |

## OFFICE & TEAM MANAGEMENT

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
| Monitor & update work plan |
| Develop & implement further SOPs |
| Reports/Publications for Steering/Operational Groups |

**END OF REPORT to SPC**

A discussion ensured with focus on

* Lack of validated information from EPA
* Waste Presentation Byelaws / Templates to be circulated
* Recent introduction of nominal fees for green bin
* Recycling facilities in Clondalkin
* Generation of packaging and role / responsibility of supermarkets
* Legal basis / enforceability of conditions of planning permissions requiring provision of on-site recycling facilities
* WtE – capacity must be available
* Proposal for database of households who do not avail of kerbside collections

**Item 3: Interim report on (South) Dublin Canvas Project**

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

“The (South) Dublin Canvas project is an action within the 2018 SDCC Litter Management Action Plan, which aims at eliminating/ minimising visual litter as the issue of graffiti (visual litter) remains high on the agenda.

The (South) Dublin Canvas project uses traffic light control boxes to exhibit high quality, creative artwork to the public. Traffic light control boxes make perfect canvases to showcase community art as they are always naturally located in high footfall – high traffic areas. The artwork can be enjoyed by pedestrians, cyclist and motorists as they wait for the traffic light to turn green.

The (South) Dublin Canvas project has commenced in South Dublin County. The open callout for submissions commenced on Thursday 8th March. The submission deadline was Monday 16th April, 99 submissions were received 28 of which were inadmissible due to using the incorrect application format. The remaining 71 submissions were assessed on Thursday 19th April with 36 submissions chosen for the selected traffic light boxes.

Stage one of the process, as outlined below is completed.

**Stage 1: January – February**

* Assess suitable traffic light control boxes for artwork – completed
* Agree selected locations – completed
* Photograph and add GPS data to website ready for callout to artists – completed

Stage 2 of the process as outlined below is nearly 2/3’s of the way completed:

**Stage 2: March - April**

* Callout Commences – completed
* Selection process - nearing completion
* Artists notified of outcome – to be completed

The following is the breakdown of the selection process per location as it current stands:

1. **Clondalkin**
	1. 5/8 pieces selected
2. **Lucan/Palmerstown**
	1. 3/8 pieces selected
3. **Rathfarnham**
	1. 8/8 selected
4. **Tallaght South**
	1. 8/8 selected
5. **Tallaght Central**
	1. 8/8 selected
6. **Templeogue**
	1. 4/8 selected

A number of traffic light boxes have to be substituted due to health and safety, suitability and sightline reasons.

The following are the Traffic light boxes that are to be substituted:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Location** | **Area** | **SDCC#** | **GPS:** | **Notes** |
| 1 | Lucan Main St /Adamstown Rd | Lucan |  | 53.356417, -6.449967 | Box is not available |
| 2 | ORR/ Hermitage | Lucan |  | 53.356163, -6.422444 | Box is not suitable for use |
| 3 | Rathfarnham Main St/ Butterfield Ave | Rathfarnham | 43. T380 | 53.297856, -6.286102 | Box not Visible |
| 4 | Ballyboden / Ballyroan | Rathfarnham | 47. T132 | 53.286335, -6.293326 | Box not suitable. Bars welded to side |
| 5 | Belgard Rd- Old Blessington Road | Tallaght Central | 19. T141 | 53.289048, -6.367782 | Not Viewable behind rail |
| 6 | N81-Belgard Road | Tallaght Central | 20. T176 | 53.285290, -6.365795 | Uneven surface, trip hazard |
| 7 | Templeville Rd/ Fortfield | Templeogue/ Terenure | 39. T505 | 53.301519, -6.305281 | Not Suitable. Bars welded to side. |

Replacement Traffic light boxes have yet to be located. These will be confirmed prior to the second callout.

A further call for submissions will be carried out in order to obtain the remaining 12 artistic representations to achieve the target of 48 traffic lights box involved in this pilot. This callout will take place at the start of June with submission deadline for start of July. Artwork can then be completed by the end of September. Stages three and four will be completed during the time frame May – October 2018.

**Stage 3: May - June**

* Further call out
* Artwork begins

**Stage 4: September - October**

* Artwork Completed”

**END OF REPORT to SPC**

Queries raised by Ms. Kiernan regarding the low numbers submitted for Lucan / Palmerstown were responded to by Ms. O’ Brien.

**Item 4 Update on Flood Alleviation Schemes and Surface Water Schemes**

The following report as circulated was presented by Senior Engineers Chris Galvin and Michael McAdam:

**SURFACE WATER MINOR WORKS PROGRAMME:**

**1 Surface Water Sewer Systems;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Project** | **Update on Project** |
| Tay Lane, Rathcoole  | Flood attenuation | In Planning. |
| Glenmaroon  | Localised surface water improvement – to alleviate flooding on Glenmaroon Road. | Works Complete. |
| Peamount Road, Main Street, Newcastle.  | Peamount rd. – ditch to be cleared Main street - Localised surface water improvement | To commence May 2018.In Planning. |
| Celbridge Road  | Surface water improvement scheme – collapsed culvert restoration. | Works complete. |
| Ballyowen Lane, Lucan.  | Surface water improvement scheme - - to address localised flooding and to provide a discharge pipeline from Public Realm pitch drainage works | To commence construction in May 2018 |
| Templeogue Village  | Section 1 – provide surface water discharge line from Main Street at Morgue Pub to Dodder at Riverside Cottages.Section 2 - Main street - Initial assessment and feasibility study of pipeline along the main street. (anticipated funding from IW) | Section 1 –Survey is complete. It is hoped that construction will start June 2018Section 2 -Liaison with Irish Water. |
| Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham.  | Provide improved drainage on road | Phase 1- Assess condition of current drainage and Planning. Carried over from 2017 |
| Old Lucan Road near village | Localised surface water improvement | Multi annual scheme in planning in conjunction with Roads |
| Butterfield Park | Localised surface water improvement(anticipated co-funding from IW) | In planning.  |
| Nangor Road/Ninth Lock Road Junction, Clondalkin. | Localised surface water improvement | In planning. Carried over from 2017 |
| The majority of the above schemes are at preliminary stage and are subject to detailed design and full budgetary estimates. In cases where the new surface water pipeline will provide additional capacity in the foul sewer, co-funding is anticipated from IW. |  |

**2 Flood Alleviation Minor Capital Works – Rivers & Streams;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Project** | **Update on Project** |
| Camac River  | Clearing and regrading | Works underway. |
| Poddle River | Clearing and regrading | In planning |
| Jobstown stream | Regrading, dredging and cleaning. Provision of a better aesthetic area to discourage illegal dumping into the stream. | In planning |
| River CCTV & Telemetry | Provide 4 no. outstations on: - Camac screen at Toyota, Jobstown stream screen before N81 culvert and 2 No. on the Poddle river. | The 2 no. sites on Poddle are complete. |
| Rathfarnham Castle | Clean up and regrade inlet and outlet watercourse to lakes | May 2018 |
| Rain Gauge Upgrade | 5 sites | In planning |
| Owendoher Stream | Clearing and regrading | In planning |

**END OF REPORT to SPC**

Mr. Galvin responded to query raised regarding Camac “emergency” nature and level of protection that the scheme will provide.

**Item 5 Climate Change incl CARO**

Senior Engineer Chris Galvin updated in relation to:

* Background to Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015
* National Mitigation Plan, July 2017
* National Adaptation Framework January 2018 – 12 actions
* Strategies being developed to address climate change – mitigation and adaptation
* Local adaptation strategies
* Resources available (incl Climate Ireland portal )
* Need for shared services
* CARO – 4 Climate Action regional Offices which are being established across 4 geographical/topographical regions, based on climate risk
* Role of Local Authorities

**Item 6 Teen Space Consultation Process**

The following report as circulated was presented by Senior Executive Parks Superintendent Laurence Colleran:

**Introduction**

South Dublin County Council commenced a consultation process with teenagers in 2017, which examines both active and passive recreational requirements for this age group. Background research was also carried out over the period to assess current level of provision for this group in the county.

This report presents the preliminary findings of the study to date and the draft recommendations. The report will be finalised following some further consultation outlined later in this document.

During the delivery of the 2014‐2018 playspace programme for younger children by South Dublin County Council, an issues that repeatedly emerged was the need to carry out a similar programme of facility provision for teenagers.

Anecdotally teenagers have a poor reputation when it comes to their use of playgrounds and other public places. When they hang out in playgrounds they are accused of loitering, of taking over and of rowdiness. A congregation of teenagers is frequently described as being anti‐social when in fact it is just normal social interaction. Parents of younger children often see groups of teenagers using playgrounds in a very negative light.

Part of normal adolescent behaviour involves growing independence from ones family and increased contact with and influence by their peers. Teenagers require additional freedom outside their homes. However, unlike young children or older adults, teenagers have no obvious right to spaces of their own. They usually have nowhere else to go except outdoor public places including parks and playgrounds.

During consultations for the playspace programme SDCC often heard from teenagers who reported feeling harassed by adults wherever they went. They are often made to feel unwelcome in town centres, outside shops and in playgrounds and parks. They report feeling unwelcome sitting chatting in their own housing estates. Teenagers report that fast‐food facilities and Shopping Centres are popular destinations for them as they give them somewhere to go, to see and be seen and allow them to congregate with their peers.

**Survey Results**

South Dublin County Council carried out a social media consultation process with content and paid advertisements targeted within the SDCC region aimed at 13‐19 year olds. This multi‐media campaign ran from the 10th of November 2017 to January 19th 2018. Approx. 500 submissions were received in that time frame.

**(See Appendix A for Infographic on Survey Results)**

The survey shows that teenagers feel excluded from many public places. They report being unwelcome, feeling unsafe and being deterred by anti‐social activity.

The survey also revealed some very stark figures about the type of facilities teenagers want. Over 90% of respondents want areas for hanging out and unstructured physical activity as opposed to only 5% asking for more sports facilities. This challenges the stereotype of teenagers hanging out only because they are bored. Hanging out is seen as a desirable activity in itself and is not a result of having nothing to do. Given the stereotypes of today’s teenagers with heads stuck to screens and not interested in fitness it is very positive to see the high demand for physical activity and play as well as for real life social interaction.

The survey results are clear: that providing more organised activities for teenagers is not what they want. Research into provision of existing facilities for teenagers within the county corroborates the findings of the survey. Sports clubs across the county were asked if they had teenage membership and if they would accept new teenage members. It was found that there are ample opportunities for teenagers to engage in sports across the county if they wish. The Community Section also report that Community Centres offering services to teenagers‐ e.g. dance, drama etc. are not over‐subscribed.

**Recommendations**

1. Create a series of **hangout/meeting places** for teenagers. The most popular suggestions from the survey were for places to sit and chat and access to play facilities such as swings, climbing and zip lines. Other requests in these spaces were for free WIFI, shelter, a place to play music, toilets and water fonts.

2. Create areas for **unstructured Physical Activity**‐ Generally this is self‐directed activity rather than organised sport. All‐weather pitches, MUGAS and Astro pitches were the most popular followed by skate parks, biking facilities, basketball courts and outdoor fitness areas.

3. Investigate means of providing **unstructured hangout areas** in Community Centres‐ (games room/sport hall/

cafés) or in areas associated with Community Centres. Investigate provision of **cafés in parks.** These would provide a service to all park users but would be particularly beneficial to teenagers as a social outlet.

4. Develop a **specific app** to provide better information on Council facilities and Services to teenagers. Many respondents asked for facilities that currently already exist but that they are not accessing. We have an opportunity to gather information relevant to these facilities in one place for ease of access.

**Recommendation 1:**

**Provide Meeting Places/hangouts for teenagers:**

Location is key to providing meeting places for teenagers. It needs to be a place to be seen and that will bring life and youth culture into the area. A prominent public location should be selected with good passive supervision from roads. Any hidden areas are likely to be subject to antisocial activity and unsafe for most teenagers. The main element of these spaces will be the seating. Seating should be modern and welcoming to young people. It should be suitable for use by one or two people or by larger groups.

*Example of stylish seating allowing teens to meet up and hangout in small or large groups. These spaces*

*are not only a destination for passive recreation but can add vibrancy to an area.*

*Non formal Seating can liven up public space and can make for a fun hangout spot‐ a place to be seen.*

As part of the hangout areas teenagers asked for **Play** facilities such as swings, climbing and zip lines. During the play space consultations teenagers always asked for access to play equipment and not to be excluded from playgrounds. There is no reason in terms of suitability of equipment that they should be excluded. Below are examples of play facilities well suited to use by teenagers.

*Basket swings and spinning disks allow groups of teens to use the equipment together. They are a great opportunity for showing off and for mixing of boys and girls.*

Teenagers require more vigorous play than younger children so swinging, spinning and anything that thrills is always popular. These areas should be designed to combine socialising, exercise and play.

Other requests in these spaces were for free WIFI, shelter, a place to play music, toilets and drinking water fountains.

Music plays a central part in modern youth culture and a facility where teens could play music would be very popular. This can be achieved using Amplifying Smart Phone Speakers.

Volumes can be controlled and the units set to operate at agreed times and to agreed noise levels. No external is electricity needed for some models.

Free Wi‐Fi point:

This is an increasingly prevalent part of young people’s lives and features high in terms of what they want in their social spaces.

Drinking water fountains‐ where teenagers are hanging out and playing/exercising they need access to drinking water and toilets

**Recommendation 2:**

**Provide Areas for Unstructured Physical Activity.**

These areas allow for self‐directed activity rather than organised sport but require some sports infrastructure. All-weather pitches, MUGAS and Astro pitches were the most popular followed by skate‐parks, biking facilities, basketball courts and outdoor fitness areas. These areas should have associated seating allowing teenagers to drop in and out of the activity or just observe.

*Basketball courts with seating above. Exercise Park below*

Exercise Stations, Multi Use Games Areas, basketball courts, skateboarding areas and parkour areas allow teenagers to take ownership of areas as well as getting physical activity and a place to hang out with friends

* *Tumble bars provide an opportunity for fun and exercise*
* *Table Tennis tables Parkour*
* *Skateboarding area & hangout combined MUGA*
* *Informal kick about area Bike trail*
* *Informal games wall Sheltered exercise area/ seating point*
* *Area with a combination of ball court, shelter and seating in a park setting*
* *Combination of seating/climbing and exercise/gym equipment*

**Recommendation 3**.

Create teenager’s hangout areas in **Community Centres** or in areas associated with Community Centres. This may not be possible in every site so we should also investigate providing Cafes in Parks.

Teenagers would like areas to hangout, get a coffee, watch movies, play pool, have free WIFI, meet friends, enjoy gaming or engage in informal sporting or fitness activity. Developing teen areas close to Community Centres would also give some security to them and provide access to toilets.

 **Cafés in parks** would provide a service to all park users but

would be particularly beneficial to teenagers as a social outlet. Cafes could be provided in an existing park buildings or Community Centres or portable buildings could be used.

The Youth Services-organised youth cafés facilitate 10 youths to every 1 adult, which causes difficulties if more teenagers casually turn up and have to be turned away. With a park café open to all park users there is no expectation that the teenagers will be supervised so the issue of staff ratios is not an issue. The café would benefit all park users and could be located to give passive supervision to play areas or teenager hangout areas.

Having a café in the park is also a useful way to provide toilet facilities to park users.

Recommendation 4:

Develop an app to provide better information on Council facilities and services to teenagers. Many respondents asked for facilities that currently already exist but that they are obviously unaware of / currently not accessing. How teenagers communicate and get information has changed. They expect all information to be readily accessible online and may be unaware of information posted elsewhere.

SDCC have an opportunity to gather information relevant to these facilities in one place in a way that is readily accessible to teenagers. The Communications Unit will investigate this.

The information on existing facilities is available but requires collating and presenting in a coherent fashion.

**Next Steps:**

**Further Consultation**

Community Services have spoken with the senior managers in the three primary service providers, DDLETB, Foroige and Crosscare. They have been invited to a briefing on the teenager preliminary report and can engage them on the contents. There have been a number of questions raised by the report and the preliminary findings and draft recommendations can be interrogated at this stage before further progress.

**Pilot Projects**

The current preliminary recommendations can be progressed via a number of Pilot Projects where various types of teenage facilities can be tested:

1. Ball Wall Lucan‐ To be built as part of 2017 Participatory Budget. (See Appendix B)

2. Giant bench Kingswood‐ This was previously agreed during the consultation process for the recently installed playspace at Kingswood. It was agreed at that stage that it would not be done at the same time as the playspace; but could be re‐visited as part of this programme.

3. Tymon Park‐ café adjacent to new playground.

4. Ballycragh Park‐ After the completion of the playspace at Ballycragh; a teen space with seating and some play equipment was requested. SDCC have already engaged with teenagers in the area in this regard. It would be welcomed by many parents who would prefer that local teenagers stop using the nearby children’s playspace.

5. The current Participatory Budget Process in Clondalkin may be a source of requests for teenage facilities in the Clondalkin area; this will be examined.

**Teenage Facility Programme:**

The capital budget 2018‐2020 has included an allocation for teenage facilities to commence in 2019. The completed study and final recommendations will give guidance on the type of facilities that will be provided.

**END OF REPORT to SPC**

Queries raised related to the following were responded to by Mr Colleran, Ms Suzanne Furlong and Ms Teresa Walsh:

* Age bracket of this surveyed – 9/18
* Risk of ASB
* Suitability of locations
* Passive surveillance
* Potential misuse
* High teen population in county
* Next steps – presentation to May Council Meeting
* Preparation of detail design

**Item 7 Any other business**

Heritage Bill 2016 - Ms Kiernan referred to proposals to resurrect the Heritage Bill 2016 which aims to alter the “closed” season for hedge cutting and burning in the uplands and spoke against any such proposal.