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



**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Monday, June 11, 2018**

**QUESTION NO.19**

**QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

"To ask the Chief Executive to issue a report into what way the 300k Have your say will be improved as to avoid future disappointment by any electoral area ''

**REPLY:**

At the outset of the initiative in 2018, and following the learning from the experience of the previous year's initiative in the Lucan Electoral Area, the Steering Group developed a criteria for the assessment of submitted projects to this year's €300k Have Your Say initiative in order to ensure each submission was treated in a fair and equal manner. This criteria was agreed by the Participatory Budgeting Steering Group, which is made up of elected members and senior Council staff, and was distributed to all elected members.

The deadline for submissions for €300k Have Your Say for the Clondalkin Electoral Area passed on April 9th with the Council receiving 230 entries. A series of meetings were then carried out, first between Senior Management and then with the Steering Group, in which they considered all of the submissions by members of the public. These were assessed and then presented as a recommended shortlist of 24 projects for approval at the full Council meeting on Monday, May 14th. The 24 final projects that were shortlisted reflect the submissions of many more people or groups who made a submission as the same ideas were often repeated in a number of submissions. Those projects were then voted on by members of the public with the winners announced at an event in The Round Tower, Clondalkin on June 6th.

Given the competitive nature of the initiative, it is not possible for the Council to guarantee that there will not be disappointment felt by those whose projects do not progress to the Voting Stage or who do not get selected by the public for funding. Every effort is made to ensure good communications throughout the process and every person submitting a project is informed of what happened to their submission and if the proposal was not put through to the public vote the reason for this is clearly stated. In many cases the reason is because the proposed project is planned in the Council's programme of works and we inform them of that e.g. Village signage is planned for Newcastle.

The Steering Group welcomes feedback on all stages of the initiative so as to better improve the experience for future interactions of the initiative and would wish to thank those who have already given their feedback. They will review this year's initiative following its completion and may make changes to the process for 2019 based off of any learnings the process yields. Any changes will be communicated to elected members ahead of the launch of next year's €300k Have Your Say.

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