

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



Minutes of Environment Public Realm & Climate Change SPC Meeting held on 6th November 2019

Venue: IT Conference Room

In attendance:

Elected Members

Councillor Brian Lawlor (Chair)
Councillor Francis Timmons
Councillor Alan Edge
Councillor Yvonne Collins
Councillor Liam Sinclair
Councillor Madeleine Johansson

Non-Elected

Donie Anderson
Una Ruddock
Deirdre Mooney

Officials

Teresa Walsh, Director of Service
Chris Galvin, Senior Engineer
Derek Sargent, A/Senior Engineer
Suzanne Furlong, Snr. Parks Superintendent
Michael McAdam, A/ Snr. Executive Officer
Brenda Shannon, Administrative Officer
Fiona Hendley, Administrative Officer

Apologies

Councillor Dermot Richardson
Leo Magee, Senior Engineer

Item 1: Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on 5th February 2019

The [Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on 5th February 2019](#), were proposed by Councillor Lawlor, seconded by Councillor Timmons and agreed.

Item 2: Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Lorna Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management presented a report to the Committee in respect of the consultation process underway for the preparation of the [South Dublin County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024](#).

The Report was **NOTED**

Item 3: Introduction to SPC and Lobbying requirements

a. The [South Dublin County Council Scheme for the Establishment of Strategic Policy Committees](#) adopted at the Council meeting held on the 14th October 2019 as circulated was presented by Teresa Walsh, Director of Services who also outlines the role of the SPC as follows:

- The Council is and remains the decision-making authority, and it is the task of the SPC as a committee of the Council, to advise the Council in its work.
- Each SPC will assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy in relation to research functions of a strategic nature subject to the relevant statutory framework. They will participate in the policy making process from the preliminary stages, when certain policy options are being considered. Background work, discussion and recommendations will be completed at SPC level before final consideration and ratification by the Council. Each SPC will provide advice and reports to the Council on any policy matter within their range of responsibilities or on related issues either on their own initiative or at the request of the Council.
- Each SPC's work shall take account of the Council's overall corporate policy and objectives, integrate with statutory plans where relevant, link realistically to financial resources and be responsive to external consultation.

A Draft programme for the SPC for 2020 was presented:

1. Flood Alleviation and Surface Water Schemes – ongoing
2. Recycling Strategy Update
3. Regional Waste Management Plan / WERLA Priorities
4. Update on Scrambler & Quads Task Force
5. Climate Change Action Plan 2019/2024 – Implementation Plan
6. Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2024
7. Sports Pitch Strategy
8. Green Infrastructure Strategy
9. Pollinator Plan
10. Policy on Surface Water and Attenuation Management, including SuDs Guidance
11. Initiate Review of Bye Laws (Parks Op Spaces / Horses)
12. Living with Trees Tree Management Strategy Review

A discussion ensued and the Director of Service responded to the Committee members' queries. The Committee members were requested to submit suggestions for inclusion in the Draft SPC work programme for agreement.

It was agreed that the A/Senior Executive Officer would circulate a list of SPC members and their roles together with a list of staff in Environment, Water & Climate Change and their roles.

The Scheme and associated Reports were **NOTED**

- b. An Information Notice in respect of Strategic Policy Committees, Advisory Groups and the Regulation of Lobbying as circulated was **NOTED**

Item 4: Draft Litter Management Plan 2020-2024

A report on the [Draft Litter Management Plan 2020-2024](#) and the Public Consultation process as circulated was presented by Michael McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer.

The A/Senior Executive Officer and the Director of Service responded to the members’ queries. The committee was informed that a report on the public consultation and a Final Draft Litter Management Plan will be presented to the SPC at their February Meeting with a view to submitting the Plan to the Council for approval at their next meeting.

The Report was **NOTED**

Item 5: Update on Flood Alleviation (including CFRAMS) and Surface Water Schemes

The following report as circulated was presented by Derek Sargent, A/ Senior Engineer:

SURFACE WATER MINOR WORKS PROGRAMME 2019

Location	Project Details	Projected Exp. For 2019
Ballyowen Lane Surface Water	Surface Water pipeline complete. Road reinstatement programmed to be complete before year end – tenders received	€62,000
Templeogue Village Surface Water	Surface Water pipeline connecting Templeogue Road to Riverside Cottages via route through carpark near Templeogue Inn – works complete	€58,000
Mill Lane, Saggart, Surface Water	Surface Water pipeline completed before commencement of village renewal works	€66,340
Dodder Bank Reinforcement	Gabions required to prevent collapse of bank on outfall of Oldcourt Stream to Dodder. Works can commence shortly but are awaiting lower flows	€23,500
Garter Lane, Saggart	Works to Surface Water pipeline to remove restriction to alleviate flooding from Garter Lane on to the N7. Works complete	€12,585
Owendoer Stream	Remove overhanging trees and clear channel to remove potential flow restrictions. Works commenced	€14,220

Bancroft Stream	Remove debris and overgrowth to clear channel of potential restrictions – works complete	€41,500
Sean Walsh Park Lake	Upper Lake cleared of debris and desilted – works complete	€56,850
Peamount Road, Newcastle	Ditch cleared to remove debris and overgrowth – works complete	€4,274
River Screens – telemetry cameras	Cameras to remotely monitor flows and screens conditions, at Camac River *2 and on Jobstown Stream near N81 – on order	€80,000
Newcastle Manor	Attenuation tank to be cleared and pipework realignment to be carried out to reduce potential for flooding – works in planning	€20,000
Adamstown Surface Water realignment	Remove surface water pumping station and link drainage to gravity discharge to 750mm pipeline – works in progress	€69,200
Camac River, Corkagh	Survey of bed levels through Corkagh Park – works planned	€5,000
Total		€513,500

SURFACE WATER MINOR WORKS PROGRAMME 2020

1. Surface Water Sewer Systems:

Location	Project Details	Projected Exp. For 2020
Rathcoole Park	Regrade River bank - to alleviate overspill during heavy rainfall migrating down to Rathcoole village	€50,000
Tay Lane Rathcoole	Road Design required to Regrade road and allow installation of upsized Surface Water pipe	€80,000
Templeogue Village Main Street	Initial assessment and feasibility for new surface water sewer – slit trenches to determine location of underground services	€25,000
Old Lucan Road near village centre	New surface water pipeline required to facilitate road drainage	€160,000

Corkagh Park	Level Survey of existing flood alleviation works and desiltation of channels	€20,000
Butterfield Park	New surface water sewer required to allow separation of surface water and foul to alleviate foul sewer flooding – joint funding to be agreed with IW	€25,000
Woodville/Esker Lane	New surface water pipeline required to connect road gulleys to existing surface water network	€30,000
Palmerstown Woods	New surface water pipeline required to provide improved connection to surface water network	€35,000
Total		€425,000

Most of the above schemes are at preliminary design stage and are subject to detailed design and full budgetary estimates.

2. Flood Alleviation Minor Capital Works – River & Stream 2020

Location	Project Details	Projected Exp. For 2020
Camac River	Clearing & regrading	€50,000
Poddle River	Clearing & regrading	€60,000
Jobstown Stream Tributary	Upgrade pipework from N81/DeSelby to discharge to 525mm .	€80,000
Owendoher Stream	Clearing & regrading	€20,000
Mill Ponds & Camac Screen at Toyota	Replace River Screens	€15,000
Ballycragh Lake	Clear out debris and silt from lake	€25,000
Total		€250,000

END OF REPORT

The A/ Senior Engineer responded to the members' queries.

The Report was **NOTED**

The following report as circulated was presented by Chris Galvin, Senior Engineer:

River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme

Works are currently being completed under Stage 1 – Preliminary Design with the focus on completing the Preliminary Design Report, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Planning Drawings for Part X Planning submission to ABP.

Since Q1 2019 focus was placed on providing more nature-based solutions in the scheme so a number of changes were introduced, these include the introduction of an Integrated Constructed Wetlands in Tymon Park downstream from the Tymon Park Lakes, which has been included to assist in increasing water quality and biodiversity in the river alongside major layout changes to the proposed new storage areas located in the open space at the rear of Whitehall Park and in Ravensdale Park at the KCR. As more focus was placed on nature-based solutions, the extent of hard (concrete) flood defences required on the scheme has been dramatically reduced by 75% from the 3.5km recommended in the 2014 Poddle Options Report to approx. 800m.

Following these changes and to ensure that Landscape Mitigation is properly addressed in relation to tree removal/replacement, along with meeting the requirements of both the SDCC and DCC Public Realm Depts, a comprehensive Tree Survey took place in early Q3 2019 along the affected river route. Final discussions regarding the landscape mitigation are currently taking place with SDCC and DCC Public Realm Depts.

Other works that have been completed since Q1 2019 include a required independent Panel Engineer analysis of the proposed storage embankments to be constructed in Tymon Park, a comprehensive Threshold Survey of properties along the route, carried out to assist in determining the Cost Benefit Analysis of the scheme, the completion of the Hydraulic and Hydrological analysis and the updating of the Flood Mapping for the catchment. Other main reports required for Planning that have also been completed include the Construction Environment Management Plan and the Natura Impact Statement along with the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report which was issued to the relevant departments in SDCC and DCC for review in Q3 2019.

Following a competitive tender process held at the end of Q2 2019, Site Investigation works are currently being carried out in various locations from Tymon North Park to Mount Argus, with groundworks expected to be completed in mid-November.

In relation to communications, an updated presentation was provided to the SDCC May 2019 Co Co Meeting and to the DCC South East Area Committee Meeting in September 2019. There was

non-statutory public consultation in December 2018 and information is on the website www.poddlesfas.ie

Once the Preliminary Design Report and the EIAR are completed a Part X Planning Application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála with the submission currently estimated for Q4 2019 when detailed design for the scheme will also commence.

Following the submission to ABP, 6 weeks of public consultation will take place in various locations in SDCC and DCC. We will then await the decision of the Board, which generally takes between 6 and 8 months. Once we have planning approval from the Board, construction is currently estimated to commence in Q3/Q4 2020.

Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme commenced with the appointment of RPS Group in October 2018 as Technical Consultants.

In Q2 2019, following the review by the consultant of the draft Preliminary Design Report issued by the OPW in Q1 2019, significant changes have taken place in relation to the Planning route required for the scheme. Following environmental impact screening of the scheme and as a result of the Sweetman v Coillte judgement by the CJEU in June 2018, it was recommended by the consultant that planning would now have to be applied to An Bord Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as opposed to the Part IIX process which was originally intended.

Following the recommendation, it was established that greater details of design and environmental reporting is required under Sec177AE which includes for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment - Natura Impact statement.

Since the recommendation a Natura Impact Statement, an Ecological Assessment Report and a Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment Report have been compiled which have included comprehensive Bat Surveys, Habitat Surveys and Flora and Fauna Surveys. The Cost Benefit Analysis for the scheme has also been completed.

Also, since Q2 2019 thorough Topographic, Threshold, Utility and Invasive Species Surveys have been completed alongside a competitive tender process for a Site Investigation contract which is currently being carried out along the route of the scheme and is expected to be completed by the end of November.

A broad Tree Survey has also recently been completed along the route and when the result of this has been analysed several Public Information Days/Evenings will commence in mid-late November to inform the public and relevant stakeholders of the outcomes of the proposed scheme. These information dates will be held in SDCC Head Office and in local libraries and community centres.

Following these public information events, it is currently estimated that the planning submission to ABP will be in December 2019 where a decision on planning is expected to take 6 months.

Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme

Following a competitive tender process under the Multi Party Framework Agreement for Consultant Engineering Design Services for future Flood Alleviation Projects in County Dublin, AECOM Ireland Ltd were appointed as technical consultants for the scheme in October 2019 and works will commence with a comprehensive site walkover and a full review of all available data.

Following the appointment of AECOM, a Steering Group has been formed consisting of representatives from the OPW, DCC and SDCC with DCC selected as the Lead Authority on the scheme.

The next Steering Group meeting is to be held on November 5th, 2019 and updates from these meetings will be provided at the next SPC Meeting.

END OF REPORT

The Senior Engineer responded to the members' queries

The Report was **NOTED**

Item 6: Update on Climate Action Plan 2019 -2024 & Implementation

The following report as circulated was presented by Chris Galvin, Senior Engineer:

South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Plan was presented to the Mayor and Elected Members in the September Meeting. The plan presents 130 actions to be progressed throughout its life, in order to fulfil our global obligations and commitments accepted under the Covenant of Mayors and the Paris Agreement.

The 4 key targets of the CCAP are;

- 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by the year 2020
- 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030
- Make Dublin a climate-resilient region by reducing the impact of future climate change-related events
- Actively engage and inform our citizens on climate change

The 6 key areas under which the action plan will be implemented are;

- Energy and Buildings
- Transport
- Flood Resilience
- Nature based Solutions

- Resource Management
- Citizen Engagement

The associated implementation plan outlines the action teams with oversight over each area and prescribes the frequency at which meetings are to be held. The implementation plan also defines the reporting mechanisms to the Climate Action Steering Group.

Progress

The first round of Action Team meetings are complete and the second round are in progress. Actions are currently being tracked on a spreadsheet

Energy and Buildings

Of the 27 actions detailed under Energy and Buildings, a number of key actions are critical to SDCC realising its efficiency improvement and emission reduction targets on schedule. CoDEMA, the energy management agency, has identified that public lighting in South Dublin accounts for 48% and 49% of energy use and emissions respectively. SDCC has recently committed an additional €500,000 to accelerate the upgrading of sodium public lighting to more efficient LED systems.

In addition to upgrading public lighting, SDCC has approved the upgrading of lighting in the municipal buildings to LEDs. Phase 1 of the programme has been completed with 10% of the 2,600 lights having been replaced.

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme is currently progressing as follows

- South Dublin Heating Company has been registered
- Tenders have been received from ESCO for DBOM of energy centre and pipe network and are currently under evaluation. Preferred tenderer to be announced next week
- SDCC have contract documents for the Data Centre and are currently reviewing them.

Transport

SDCC Climate Change Action Plan identifies 21 actions under transport aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable transport options to members of the public and to staff. Measures include the development of cycleways and greenways to encourage active travel modes in favour of car use.

The inclusion of 5 Electric Vehicles to the operational fleet has helped to raise the profile of South Dublin County Council.

Ongoing improvements to village centres and public realms aim to enhance the green infrastructure and provide sustainable transport linkages.

Flood Resilience

22 Actions have been identified for Flood Resilience in the CCAP. Key actions include

- Cross Boundary flood management with our neighbouring Las

- the implementation of SuDS on SDCC properties and in SDZ and LAPs;
- Implement flood risk management guidelines;
- Protection of floodplains and wetlands

Funding has been allocated to progress works on the following Flood Alleviation Schemes;

- Poddle FAS
- Whitechurch FAS
- Camac FAS

Nature Based Solutions

33 actions under Nature Based Solutions have been outlined in the CCAP. Funding has been made available to develop additional pollination areas within the County. Currently 90 Hectares of wildflower meadows are managed by SDCC.

SDCC have introduced several green roofs on buildings including Avonbeg Community Centre and Round Tower Visitor Centre. Additional green roofs are planned.

A 5-year programme to deliver natural playspaces across the county is underway.

Tree planting and management plan is in place, to provide 1,500 additional trees per annum.

Resource Management

Several of the 27 actions detailed under Resource Management represent recurring items that should be detailed and monitored under the Climate Change Action Plan. Significant progress has already been made in terms of waste management in SDCC offices and public realm, however further efforts are required to ensure that SDCC is seen as a leader in the movement against waste and in particular, single use plastics.

SDCC is currently introducing and commissioning water fountains for public use in strategic locations as a measure to help eliminate single use plastic bottles. Funding has been made available to install 9 units across the County, with scope to provide additional units in 2020.

Citizen Engagement

SDCC has been engaging actively with members of the public on the issues relating to climate change. Our key actions taken to date include;

- Regular updates on Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, SDCC Website)
- Supporting Climate Action Week
- Engaging with schools to promote cycling and road safety
- Engagement with Community Liaison Officer & Tidy Towns groups
- Media interviews relating to Climate Change and Actions (Radio na Life, RTÉ)
- Climate Change presentation to Comhairle na nÓg

- Three Climate Action videos informing the public about the Climate Change Action Plan and the action being undertaken. These are available on Youtube and on <http://www.sdcc.ie/climatechange>

END OF REPORT

The Senior Engineer responded to the Members' queries.

The Report was **NOTED**

Item 7: Issues around Election Posters

It was AGREED that this item be deferred until the outcome of a debate on a related motion at the Council Meeting being held on the 11th of November is known.

Item 8: Sports Pitch Strategy Update

Suzanne Furlong, Senior Parks Superintendent provided an update to the members in relation to the development of a Sports Pitch Strategy for the County, which included the following:

- National and Local Policies and Objectives underpinning provision of sports pitches in the County.
- Description of Sports Pitch Strategy currently underway
- Description of the receiving environment; population etc.
- Outline of existing pitch provision
- Description of capital investment and maintenance works currently underway to maximise capacity

The report was **NOTED**

Item 9: Any Other Business

- a. Dublin Canvas: Councillor Timmons put forward a suggestion that famous people from the South Dublin area be approached and asked to get involved in the Dublin Canvas project in the County. NOTED
- b. Commercial Rates: The Chairman, Councillor Lawlor indicated that he will be proposing that a scheme be considered by the SPC whereby any future increase in Commercial Rates may be offset with rewards for small businesses for environmental activities. NOTED

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.20 p.m.