

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



Minutes of Environment Public Realm & Climate Change SPC Meeting held on 27th May 2020

Venue: Virtual Teams Meeting

In attendance:

Elected Members

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

Sectoral Members

Donie Anderson
Una Ruddock
Deirdre Mooney

Officials

Teresa Walsh, Director of Service
Chris Galvin, Senior Engineer
Leo Magee, Senior Engineer
Suzanne Furlong, Senior Parks Superintendent
Michael McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer
Derek Sargent, A/Senior Engineer
Fiona Hendley, Administrative Officer
Brenda Shannon, Administrative Officer
Damien McNulty, Senior Executive Engineer
Fionnghuala Ryan, Climate Change & Environmental Awareness Officer
Darby Mullen, Senior Executive Engineer

Apologies

Rosaleen Dywer, Heritage Officer
Eoin Burke, Senior Executive Planner

Item 1: Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on 6th November 2019

The [Minutes of meeting held on 25th February 2020](#) , were proposed by Councillor Timmons, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

Item 2: Presentation on the Climate Action Plan. Theme: Resource Management

A/Senior Executive Officer, Michael McAdam delivered a presentation on the [Climate Action Plan. Theme: Resource Management](#) to the Committee.

The A/Senior Executive Officer responded to the member's queries.

The report was **NOTED**

Item 3: Presentation on Waste Management Plan/WERLA Priorities

The Senior Executive Engineer, Damien Mc Nulty delivered a presentation on [Update on Waste Management Plan/WERLA Priorities](#)

The Senior Executive Engineer responded to the member's queries.

The Report was **NOTED**

Item 4: Update on Litter Management Plan

i) Solar Bin Trial

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

In response to requests received from elected members the Council's Public Realm Section agreed to carry out a trial on the use of solar powered, smart street litter bins. The matter was referred to the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC for discussion where it was agreed that a limited number of these bins would be installed in the Rathfarnham area where a 6 month trial would be undertaken.

In early 2019 a tender process was carried out for the installation and maintenance for a 6 month period of 8 such bins. Three tenders were received however one of these was late and could not be accepted, while a second was deemed not to be compliant with the requirements of the tender. The contract for the supply of these bins was awarded to the one remaining compliant tenderer Kyron Street Furniture, trading as the Big Belly Bin Company.

The locations chosen for inclusion in the trial were Rathfarnham Village main street, Rathfarnham Castle park and Rosemount Shopping Centre at Marian Road. A total of 7 existing standard litter bins in Rathfarnham Village were removed and replaced by 5 solar powered bins, 4 standard litter bins in the Castle playground were removed and replaced with one solar powered bin and 2 standard bins at Rosemount shops were removed and replaced by 2 solar powered units.

The trial commenced in November and the 6 month period has nearly elapsed with 24 weeks of data available. The data available from these 'smart' litter bins has been examined and below is a summary of the findings. It should be noted that the service provided when standard litter bins were in place consisted of the operative visiting the bin each day and emptying it when required, and this was considered to be servicing of the bin every day. With the smart bins in place it was possible, for the most part, to respond to alarms sent by the system requesting that the bin be serviced when the preset fullness level is reached. On some occasions the smart bins were emptied before the fullness level was reached and this is deemed to be inefficient servicing by the system. This point will be explained further below.

Features of the bin

- The 'Big Belly' bin is substantially larger than the standard litter bin, and when the ability of the unit to compact the waste is accounted for it is estimated that the capacity of this type of unit is 8 times that of the standard 90 litre bin.
- The compactor is powered by a solar power unit which makes it compliant with the Council's resource management objectives under the Climate Change Action Plan.
- The bin contains a sensor which monitors the 'fullness level' of the bin.
- The sensor can be preset to send a warning message when waste reaches a predetermined level, such as 80% of full.
- Alarms are sent to supervisory staff and the operative to advise them that the bin requires attention.
- There is also a visual alarm which can be seen by passing members of staff or the public.
- The bins can be opened by foot pedal which means that they do not need to be touched by hand.

- The bin opening is covered at all times therefore no waste can escape and animals and birds cannot scavenge from the bin.
- The smart system records and stores all data relating to bin servicing and the fullness level on emptying.
- The bin contains 2 side panels which can be used for advertising however the potential for these to generate an income which would offset against the cost of the bin has not been explored as yet. _

Data

The report generated by the smart bin system is attached. In summary it shows the following –

- The number of collections which would have been provided to the 13 standard litter bins over the period of the trial is 2,184.
- The actual number of collections provided to the 8 smart bins which replaced them was 320.
- This represents an 85% reduction in the number of collections provided.
- Of the 320 collections made, 226 of these happened when the 80% fullness level had been reached representing an efficiency level of 71%.
- 96 of these collections were made when the fullness level had not been reached and the bin had not sent an alarm, this represents an inefficiency level of 29%.
- While 96 of these collections were unnecessary at the time they were made the decision to make them was an operational one based on availability of staff resources and other issues.
- Many of the ‘unnecessary’ collections were made during the period of Covid 19 restrictions when there were limits on the staff resources available.

Options.

It is clear that this type of bin system offers the opportunity to substantially restructure the litter bin collection system, if smart bins were to be introduced to replace existing ones. The following could be considered -

- The number of street litter bin (approximately 650 at present) and the number of park litter bins (approximately 150) could be substantially reduced. This would mean some locations losing litter bins and this could be problematic. A further exercise would be

required to consider which locations should lose their litter bins and also to determine the optimum replacement ratio of smart bins for standard bins.

- There are bins currently in areas of high footfall and others in low footfall areas which could be looked at separately. Bins in high footfall areas require to be collected daily and in some cases could be emptied more often, the higher capacity offered by the compactor bins may help to address this issue.
- Bins in low footfall areas require only weekly or twice weekly collections. The alarm system would enable an operative to be sent out to these bins when they are ready for collection, whereas at the minute they have to be included in a planned collection route and checked daily to establish if they need to be collected.
- It is clear that the number of staff assigned to this work, currently 5, could be substantially reduced with some staff reassigned to other work. The vehicles they currently operate would also be available for other work.
- The liner for this litter bin can be replaced with a liner on wheels which can be emptied by a rear end loading refuse truck. This would remove all manual handling from the task which would enable the fullness level of the bin to be set at 100% of bin capacity thereby creating further efficiency.
- There is potential for the side panels of the bin to be used for advertising and to be rented out for this purpose. There is potentially an income to be generated from this and this potential should be examined and determined and could be offset against the installation of these bins.
- The cost of these bins at approximately €6,000 per bin is substantial and is approximately 15 times that of the standard litter bin. The costs involved in replacing a large part of the litter bin stock would be substantial also, for example approximately 160 of these units would cost around €1m.

A [Solar Bin Trial Performance Report](#) was also provided.

The Senior Engineer responded to members queries. It was agreed to continue the trial and report on options in advance of the 2021 Budget meetings.

The report was **NOTED**

ii) Litter and Waste Enforcement

The Administrative Officer, Brenda Shannon delivered a presentation on [Litter and Waste Enforcement](#)

The report was **NOTED**

iii) Dublin Canvas – (Request from Nov 2019 SPC)

The Climate Change & Environmental Awareness Officer, Fionnghuala Ryan delivered a presentation on [Dublin Canvas 2020](#)

Observations made by members on locations were noted by the Climate Change & Environmental Awareness Officer.

The report was **NOTED**

Item 5: Proposals under the 2020 Climate Change Innovation Fund

The Senior Engineer, Chris Galvin delivered a presentation on [Proposals under the 2020 Climate Change Innovation Fund](#)

The report was **NOTED**

Item 6: Update on Sports Pitch Strategy

i) Pavilions Programme

The following report as circulated was presented by Suzanne Furlong, Senior Parks Superintendent.

In line with the recently developed Sports Pitch Strategy; Sports Pavilions are being provided on a shared basis for several clubs, at locations that have a number of playing pitches that require changing facilities. Pavilions are ideally located in areas with good passive surveillance, with good access to car parking and with good access to the pitch facilities they will serve.

SDCC's pavilion construction programme is in progress and aims to provide for the provision of further changing facilities in public parks, commencing with provision at Dodder Valley-Old Bawn Park, Griffeen Park and Corkagh Park. The Council passed the Part 8s for these 3 projects in 2015 and a tender process was competed for the Pavilion Programme between 2016-2018 which resulted in a successful appointment of a contractor to design and build the initial project at Dodder Valley Old Bawn with an option to proceed to the design and build of subsequent projects.

The following list of pavilions-county wide was agreed by the Council:

- Dodder Valley Old Bawn
- Griffeen Valley Park
- Corkagh Park ORR
- Tymon Park South
- Dodder Valley Mt Carmel
- Griffeen Valley – Arthur Griffith Park
- Collinstown Park

To date, SDCC have been successful with applications for Sports Capital Grants for four of the above pavilions and SDCC will continue to seek funding for the programme going forward.

The construction of the Pavilion at Old Bawn is currently being finalised; with the building substantially complete and the landscape works nearing completion. Covid-19 restrictions have caused some delay to the final works.

Once completed the contractor will progress to the design and build of the pavilion at Griffeen Valley Park and then Corkagh Park all of which have funding from the Sports Capital Grants programme. Subsequent appointment for the contracts for these pavilions will be dependent on overall performance and adherence to agreed programme on the first pavilion; which to date has been satisfactory.

In relation to the proposed pavilions at Corkagh Park and Griffeen Valley Park a Part 8 process had already taken place for both; however due to the construction of the swimming pool at Lucan and issues in relation to access at Corkagh Park a new location had to be considered at both sites. The Part 8 for Griffeen Valley Pavilion was passed before Christmas in 2019 and the Pavilion at Corkagh Park is subject to a new Part 8 process which commenced in early 2020; CE report on the Part 8 process is expected to issue to the Council Meeting in July 2020.

In relation to Collinstown Park; SDCC applied for and received funding for Collinstown Pavilion in the sum of €225,000 in late 2019. Unfortunately, we did not receive the full amount sought as per the estimated costs, so we will need to examine the implications for the proposal when we move to the concept development stage.

Please note that the Covid-19 restrictions necessary to protect our public health has had an impact on all construction projects and will continue to do so going forward, as work can only proceed in line with risk assessments and control measures to reduce risk to construction workers and adjacent communities. This will necessarily have an impact on project planning and programming and may also have an adverse impact on costs.

The Senior Parks Superintendent responded to the members queries.

The Report was **NOTED**

ii) Pavilions and Pitch Booking system development

The Administrative Officer, Fiona Hendley delivered a presentation on [Pavilions and Pitch Booking System](#)

Item 7: Draft Biodiversity Plan Update

The following report as circulated was presented by Michael McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer.

Further to the comprehensive briefing on the Biodiversity Action Plan at the February 2020 SPC, please note that the timeframe outlined at that SPC has been amended in light of the Covid 19 restrictions. The presentation in February outlined a public consultation period from March 26th to April 24th 2020.

Please note the new timeframe for the Biodiversity Action Plan:

	Timeline
Update on Programme to SPCs	May 2020
Public Consultation on Draft Biodiversity Action Plan*	June 19 th – July 17 th
Prepare Chief Executive Report on Submissions received	July 17 th – August 31 st
Report to SPCs and ACMs on CE Report recommendations	September Meetings
Bring Biodiversity Action Plan to Council for noting	October Council Meeting

* - The Planning Department is preparing a public consultation strategy to reflect the Covid-19 restrictions.

Observations made by members were noted by the A/Senior Executive Officer.

The report was **NOTED**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.10 p.m.