

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



Report of Environment Public Realm & Climate Change SPC Meeting held on 25th November 2020

Venue: Virtual Teams Meeting

In attendance:

Elected Members

Councillor Brian Lawlor (Chair)
Councillor Francis Timmons
Councillor Alan Edge
Councillor Yvonne Collins
Councillor Madeleine Johansson
Councillor Clare O'Byrne

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
Fionnghuala Ryan, Climate Change & Environmental Awareness Officer
Darby Mullen, Senior Executive Engineer
Richard Fitzpatrick, Executive Environmental Scientific Officer
Máire Ni Dhomhnaill, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent

Item 1: Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on 23rd September 2020

The [Minutes of Environment SPC meeting held on 23rd September 2020](#) , were proposed by Councillor Timmons, seconded by Deirdre Mooney and agreed.

Item 2: Climate Change Action Plan Annual Report

Chris Galvin, Senior Engineer Darby Mullen, Senior Executive Engineer and Fionnghuala Ryan, Climate Change & Environmental Awareness Officer delivered a report on the [2020 Climate Change Action Plan update document and presentation](#)

Councillors O'Byrne and Johansson, sectoral members, Deirdre Mooney and Una Ruddock raised queries and commented on the report in relation to areas such as Energy Performance Contracts, Housing Retrofits, District Heating Project, green roofs, rain water harvesting and Climate Action awareness programmes. The Senior Engineer, the Senior Executive Engineer, the Climate Change & Environmental Awareness Officer, and the Director of Services responded to the queries.

Item 3: Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy

Chris Galvin, Senior Engineer and Darby Mullen, Senior Executive Engineer delivered a report on [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Charging Strategy](#)

Councillor O'Byrne raised a question on EV funding streams and implementation of the strategy, which was replied to by the Senior Engineer.

Item 4: Pollinator Plan update

Suzanne Furlong, Senior Parks Superintendent delivered a report on the [Pollinator Plan 2020 - 2025](#)

Councillors Lawlor and Edge offered their congratulations to the team on progress made. Councillors Edge and O'Byrne raised queries on the report in relation to enforcement around hedgerow preservation, pollinator planting locations, Biodiversity awareness and education and pollinator friendly weed removal methods. The Senior Parks Superintendent responded to the queries.

Item 5: SDCC Tree Management Policy; Living with Trees, Initiate review

Máire Ni Dhomhnaill, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent delivered a report on the [SDCC Tree Management Policy](#)

Councillors Timmons, Lawlor and Edge offered their congratulations on the policy and raised queries. A discussion ensued around legacy issues arising from the current policy. Sectoral member, Donie Anderson raised a query on the spread of invasive species. The Senior Executive Parks Superintendent and the Director of Services responded to the member's queries.

Item 6: Waste Action for a Circular Economy, Update

Michael McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer and Chris Galvin, Senior Engineer delivered an update on the [Waste Action for a Circular Economy, Update](#) .

Councillors Timmons and Johansson, Sectoral member, Una Ruddock raised queries on the report, in relation to social enterprise initiatives, recycling banks and deposit/return schemes which were responded to by the A/Senior Executive Officer and Senior Engineer.

Item 7: Biodiversity Action Plan – Joint Sub Committee

Michael McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer delivered a report on [Biodiversity Action Plan Joint Sub Committee](#)

Councillor Lawlor proposed Councillor O’Byrne and Sectoral members, Una Ruddock and Deirdre Mooney for the Sub Committee. Councillor Timmons proposed Councillor Edge.

The A/Senior Executive Officer noted that an SPC can provide for a maximum of two (2) Sub Committees and that the following names are nominated to the Biodiversity Action Plan Joint EWCC/LUPT Sub Committee, Cllr O’Byrne,

Cllr Edge,
Una Ruddock,
Deirdre Mooney.

Item 8: ERBM River Water Quality Update

Richard Fitzpatrick, Executive Environmental Scientific Officer delivered an updated report on the [ERBM River Water Quality Update](#)

Sectoral member, Una Ruddock raised a query, which was responded to by The Executive Environmental Scientific Officer.

Item 9: Update on Minor Flood Alleviation and Surface Water Schemes

Derek Sargent, A/Senior Engineer delivered a report on [Minor Flood Alleviation and Surface Water Schemes](#) .

Councillors Lawlor, Timmons and Collins raised queries in relation to lakes in Corkagh and Rathfarnham Parks and tree removal at Owendoher River, which were addressed by the A/Senior Engineer responded to the queries.

Item 10: Any Other Business

Councillor Edge asked when the next update on Solar Bins was being presented.

The Director of Services responded that a study would be prepared to include a full cost benefit analysis piece to be carried out and presented to the SPC in Q2 2021.