**Report on**

**Fourth Meeting of Joint-SPC Sub-Committee on Biodiversity,**

**28th October 2021**

**In attendance**:

Cllr. Shane Moynihan (Chair), Cllr. Alan Edge, Úna Ruddock (Environmental Pillar), Cllr. Eoin O’Broin, Rosaleen Dwyer (SDCC Heritage Officer).

**Apologies**: Deirdre Mooney (Business Pillar)

**Location** : Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

1. **Progress updates**

The Heritage Officer delivered a PowerPoint presentation which summarised the projects and activities undertaken in 2021 under the Biodiversity Action Plan. A spreadsheet of project updates had also been circulated prior to the meeting, providing a more detailed report of achievements and on-going issues.

Biodiversity Plan actions, projects and activities completed/underway in 2021 include:

* Establishment of the agreed governance structure to oversee implementation of B.A.P. has been established. This comprises a Joint SPC Sub-committee for Biodiversity (drawn from LUPT SPC and EWCC SPC) and an Internal Steering/Working Group for Biodiversity. Quarterly meetings in 2021 for both groups have been achieved.
* Annual Swan-tagging project in SDCC parks
* Autumn programme of mink trapping along the Dodder and Owendoher Rivers
* The completion of ecological survey work at pollinator sites in Tymon Park, Waterstown Park, and Lucan Demesne (NPWS grant-aid). Report pending.
* The completion of ecological survey of St. Finian’s Churchyard, Lucan. Report pending.
* The completion of the hedgerow and woodland survey of Tymon Park. Report pending.
* An in-house training video on non-native invasive species (NPWS grant-aid)
* Contribution to National Tidy Towns Pollinator Award as part of a joint Local Authority Heritage Officer Network initiative.
* Contribution to biodiversity awareness project by the Friends of the Camac.
* SDCC’s Pollinator Plan projects; managing Meadows for Biodiversity programme; Tree Planting Programme; Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE project; Environmental Awareness projects; Climate Change Action Plan.
* Project under development include: quantification of carbon sequestration potential by Tymon Park’s habitats; Alternatives to Herbicides project with Kildare CoCo. publication of Nature on our Doorsteps Vol 2; Saving Swifts (postponed to 2022); develop Biodiversity Communications Strategy
* On an on-going basis, the Heritage Officer contributes biodiversity information and recommendations to a wide range of Council projects and to the development of biodiversity policy, as well as weekly biodiversity columns to local Echo newspaper.

1. **Planning for 2022**

In addition to regular annual biodiversity projects, biodiversity policy development, community engagement, and the carry-over of projects currently under development (see above), discussions centred on a focus on wetlands, where a number of possible projects were debated. Also discussed was possible support for an ‘Engage with Nature’ on-line guidance on biodiversity throughout the year for communities and schools.