

**REPORT OF LAND USE, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION
HYBRID STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 30th November , 2023 at 5.30p.m.**

**PRESENT**

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| **Members** | **Council Officials** |  |
| Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade (Chair) | Mick Mulhern | Director of Services |
| Cllr Derren Ó Brádaigh (Teams) | Mary Maguire | Senior Executive Officer |
|  Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (Teams) | John Hegarty | Senior Engineer |
| Cllr Yvonne Collins (Teams) | Eoin Burke (Teams) | Senior Planner |
|  | Hazel Craigie (Teams) | Senior Planner |
|  | Rosaleen Dwyer | Heritage Officer |
|   | Susan Sinclair | Administrative Officer |
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| **Non Elected Members** |  |  |
| Eoin Aherne (Teams) | PPN |  |

### **H1/1123 Item ID:81006 – Minutes of 5th October, 2023**

[Sept (Oct) 2023 Mins](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80418)

Minutes of Land Use Planning & Transportation SPC, held on 5th October, 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Lynn Hagin Meade, seconded by Cllr. Yvonne Collins and **AGREED.**

### **H2/1123 Item ID:81148 – Update on Implementation of Heritage Plan**

[Heritage Projects](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80651)

The report as circulated was presented by Ms. Rosaleen Dwyer, Heritage Officer

Ms. Dwyer provided an update on implementation of the Heritage Plan, advising that a new timetable is being considered which will be brought to the SPC in Q1 2024.

Ms. Dwyer outlined the work carried out by the Dublin Mountains Community Archaeology (DMCA) project. This is the third year of this partnership project between SDCC, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council, the Dublin Mountains Partnership, and the Heritage Council. Ms. Dwyer reported that this project was nominated for a Chambers Excellence in Local Government award (2023) in the Heritage and Built Environment category.

She outlined the actions taken and under development under the DMCA project in 2023 including:

* Walking Tours
* Community Talks
* Archaeology Awareness Training Programmes
* Story Map & Heritage Trail Brochure
* Educational Resource

Ms. Dwyer also provided details on Threading the Tower project. A crochet lace model, using 1.5m of copper wire and lace squares, of the Clondalkin Round Tower was unveiled during Heritage Week on 16th August 2023. The event was hosted by Clondalkin Library and 60 people attended to see Cllr. Timmons unveil the structure. This project was awarded the County Heritage Award for South Dublin County by the Heritage Council for Heritage Week.

Ms. Dwyer gave an overview of activates the occurred during Heritage Week from 12th to 20th August 2023. 46 events were organised including:

* Exhibitions
* Walks, Tours and Outdoor Events
* Talks and Workshops
* Children’s Events

SDCC partnered with Society for Old Lucan local historical group to design and print an Archaeological Heritage Guide leaflet on the Council-owned historic church and graveyard of St. Finian’s, Lucan which was also produced in time for Heritage Week.

Ms. O’Dwyer provided information on a new book “A Ramble about Tallaght” written by local historian Albert Perris. The preparation and printing of the book was supported under the Heritage Plan and it was launched in Tallaght Library in November. The book brings the stories of Tallaght’s past and many and various inhabitants to life for a new generation.

The Committee congratulated Ms Dwyer on the plan and acknowledged the significant work being undertaken and Ms. O’Dwyer responded to queries raised by Cllr. Eoin Ó Brádaigh, Cllr. Yvonne Collins, Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin and Cllr. Lynn Hagin Meade. The queries focused on walking trail app for Archaeological site; budget increases; timing of Heritage Week; roll out of projects like the Round Tower countywide; distribution of Heritage Week booklet; lace making classes & frequency of walking tours.

### **H3/1123 Item ID:81009 – Update on Implementation of Biodiversity Action Plan**

[Biodiversity Projects](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80652)

The report as circulated was presented by Ms. Rosaleen Dwyer, Heritage Officer

Ms. Dwyer provided an update on implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan “Connecting with Nature” , the plan which was noted by South Dublin County Council at the November 2020 Council meeting. There are four main themes in the Action Plan, namely:

* Getting to know what we have – Spatial Projects, Surveys, Mapping
* Telling the Story – Engagement, Education, and Communications
* Leading the Way – Policy, Good Governance, and Climate Action
* Biodiversity – Protect, restore and Create.

The presentation focused on the following actions which have taken place under these themes:

* Pollinator Monitoring Programme
* Information Videos
* Ponds and Wetlands Survey Phase 1 – desk top survey (2022)
* Ponds and Wetlands Survey Phase 2 – field survey (2023)
* Woodland and Hedgerow Survey, Tymon Park
* Nature on our Doorsteps
* Walks and Talks
* Invasive Plant Species
* Invasive Animal Species
* Alternatives to Herbicides

Ms. Dwyer advised of other projects ongoing including tagging swans and gulls in Council parks, supporting community biodiversity surveys, and the installation of nesting boxes for Swifts in Watertown Park and Vesey Park.

Ms. Dwyer outlined on-going inputs on diversity issues to Council projects including planning applications, Part VIIIs, SDZs as well as to SDCC Climate Change Action Plan.

The Committee congratulated Ms Dwyer on the plan and acknowledged the significant work being undertaken and Ms. O’Dwyer and Mr. Mulhern responded to queries from Cllr. Eoin Ó Brádaigh, Mr. Eoin Aherne, Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin and Cllr. Lynn Hagin Meade. The queries focused on stepping stones; how we are meeting our planned objectives; how the SDCC plan is doing compared to the National Plan; ground nesting bird project; Biodiversity Officer; inclusion of Sean Walsh Park in survey; tacking invasive species; wetland trail for seagulls; mining bee sand dunes; feeding ducks/swans; pollinators and what constitutes wildflower meadows; increasing awareness of biodiversity; use of herbicides.

### **H4/1123 Item ID:81102 – Update on Clondalkin LAP**

[Clondalkin LAP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80614)

The report as circulated was presented by Ms. Hazel Craigie, Senior Planner

Ms. Craigie outlined progress on development of the Clondalkin Local Area Plan, which is currently at Stage Two of the process: Further Non-Statutory Public Consultation, which builds on earlier consultation and showing progress on feedback.

Feedback from on online survey carried out in April / May 2023 found that the participants’ favourite things about Clondalkin were:

* Community Spirit 45%;
* Green Spaces 37%;
* Village Feel 34%;
* Culture & Heritage 26%;
* Shops, Services & Facilities 24%

Aspects of Clondalkin where participants would like to see improvement included more footpaths/cycle paths, bike facilities; traffic issues; culture and heritage to be restored/maintained; independent local businesses; more schools; provision of youth spaces; support for the Arts.

Ms. Craigie reported on progress to date by the following:

* Urban design team - SWOT analysis; different high level scenarios; Conservation plan draft document; Green Infrastructure approaches; Movement patterns and opportunities being identified.
* Conservation – Co-ordination of consultants; Conservation Plan being drafted; identify key structures; provide character appraisal; outline vulnerabilities; make policy recommendations for integration into LAP.
* Local Transport Plan – Being carried out by ARUP using NTA assessment process; Baseline & SWOT analysis; Traffic surveys; modelling of transport movement in next stage.
* Climate Change, SFRA and SEA/AA – SFRA template prepared and to be agreed with OPW; liaise with Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme team; SEA scoping report to EPA for comment; AA screening under Habitats Directive.

Ms. Craigie outlined the next steps in the LAP process including:

* Baseline and SWOTs to be completed
* Agree transport modelling approach with NTA
* Consultation with landowners
* Develop high level options
* Examine possible village enhancement schemes
* 2nd round of Pre-draft Public Consultation in February 2024

Ms. Craigie responded to queries from Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin regarding discussions with landowners; Architectural Conservation Area; transport plan, and why the need for flood alleviation scheme.

### **H5/1123 Item ID:81008 – Review of Development Contribution Scheme 2021-2025**

[DCS - PPT](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80498)
[DCS - Review Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80543)

The report as circulated was presented by Ms. Mary Maguire, Senior Executive Officer

Ms. Maguire gave some context to the Review of Development Contribution Scheme 2021-2025:

* Statutory Basis
	+ Section 48 of Planning and Development Act 2020
	+ Statutory mechanism for capturing planning gain
	+ Making of Scheme is a Reserve Function
	+ How Development Contributions assist in the delivery of essential public infrastructure

Ms Maguire advised that the review will take account of objectives of the recently adopted County Development Plan 2022/2028, and outlined the review process which has two (2) stages i.e. preparation of draft scheme and public consultation and consideration of submissions, and seven (7) steps involved include:

1. Review of previous schemes
2. Estimate nature and scope of future development
3. Determine future infrastructure costs
4. Allocation of costs to anticipated development
5. Identify appropriate adjustments
6. Test and finalise draft scheme
7. Public consultation on the draft scheme

Ms. Maguire presented the timeline for the review of the Scheme / making of new scheme. The Draft Scheme is expected to be brought to Council on 8th July 2024 with public consultation to commence c. 16th July 2024.

Following a period of consultation with Minister and the public, the Draft Report will be presented to this SPC on 24th September 2024 with circulation to full Council no later than 2nd October 2024. The Resolution of the Council must be made no later than 6 weeks after receipt of CE report c. 14th October 2024.

### **H6/1123 Item ID:81011 – Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Programme of Review - SDCC**

[OPR Review - Request for Information](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80536)

The report as circulated was presented by Mr. Mick Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation

**REPORT:**

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) was established in April 2019 on foot of recommendations made by the Tribunal of Inquiry into Certain Planning Matters and Payments (the Mahon Tribunal).

The role of the OPR is to ensure that local authorities and An Bord Pleanála support and implement Government planning policy, and under Chapter IV of Part IIB of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, (‘the Act’),‘Review of Planning Functions’,  one of the OPR’s key statutory functions is to conduct reviews of the systems and procedures used by local authorities to deliver their planning functions.

In this regard, under the provisions of section 31AS of the Act, the OPR is implementing a programme of reviews from which it is envisaged, each Planning Authority will benefit from having the OPR look at how it delivers its planning services.

The OPR Reviews are conducted in line with a methodology which was developed in consultation with the local authority sector. The programme is designed as a developmental resource for the local authority planning sector, with recommendations arising from the process designed to enhance the delivery of services for the public.

The process follows the broad structure set out below:

1. Formal correspondence to Chief Executive requesting information in the form of a checklist / questionnaire with regard to SDCC and the systems and procedures used in relation to planning functions.

2. Subsequent to a statutory request from the OPR, the local authority prepares and submits information on the planning department’s practices and procedures.

3. The OPR visits the local authority over two / three days to meet with planning department staff and teams in a workshop setting.

4. The OPR analyses all the information gathered and prepares a draft review report.

5. The draft review report is circulated to the local authority and the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage for comments.

6. Any comments received are considered and the review report is finalised and published.

7. The implementation of recommendations from the review process are monitored, with reports submitted on a six-monthly basis.

The OPR review of SDCC’s planning systems and procedures is currently taking place over two days - 29th & 30th November 2023.

**H7/1123 Item ID:81010 – City Edge Update**

[Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80631)

Due to time constraints this Item was deferred to the next SPC meeting.

### **H8/1123 Item ID:81149 – AOB**

### **Future SPC Agenda Items**

1. Cllr. Lynn Hagin Meade proposed an Agenda Item for the next SPC meeting ***- Rights to view and Right to light*** and this was **AGREED.**
2. Cllr. Lynn Hagin Meade proposed an Agenda Item for the next SPC meeting regarding ***Rights of Way***. Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin spoke in favour of adding this item to the agenda, citing an objective of the County Development Plan (CDP). Mr Mulhern suggested that a discussion on best way to progress the work be held at the next scheduled SPC meeting, and this was **AGREED**.

**Date of next meeting**

It was advised that the next SPC meeting date is scheduled for **29th February 2024** – the last Thursday of February 2024.

Meeting concluded at 7pm.