**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



**Report on the SOCIAL, COMMUNITY & EQUALITY SPC**

**Tuesday, 20 February 2024; 3pm; Hybrid Meeting**

**In Attendance:**

Cllr. Trevor Gilligan (Chair); Cllr. Shirley O’Hara; Cllr. Vicki Casserly; Cllr. Lilian Guéret; Daire Hennessy (PPN).

**Guest presenters:**

Neasa NiBhriain (A Playful City); Aaron Copeland (A Playful City).

**Officials present:**

Elaine Leech, A/Director HSCD; Edel Clancy, A/SEO HSCD; Paul McAlerney, Senior Community Officer; Joe Lumumba, Administrative Officer HSCD; Maria Nugent, Interagency Co-ordinator; Darragh Conway, Active City Project Lead; Lucy Cush, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator; David Morrisey, Sláintecare Local Development Officer; Gareth Murray, Community Officer; Shane Hogan; Community Officer; Fionnuala Keane, Senior Staff Officer HSCD; Sean Barron, Staff Officer HSCD; Margaret Farrell, Clerical Officer HSCD.

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Patrick Holohan; Cllr. Justin Sinnott; Lynn Byrne (PPN).

The Chair, Cllr. Gilligan opened the meeting at 3pm.

**Agenda Item 1: Minutes of Social & Community SPC Meeting**

The minutes of the Social, Community & Equality SPC Meeting held on 21st November 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Gilligan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hara and agreed.

**Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising**

**There were no matters arising.**

**Agenda Item 3: Playful Streets Presentation**

A. Copeland commenced the presentation by outlining the history, vision and goals of A Playful City. It is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to engage with communities in an inclusive manner and, through workshops, facilitate youth and community-led participation in the design of spaces. Playful Streets is not aiming to take away from playgrounds and mobility infrastructure but to provide space outside people’s homes so children and adults can access play, socialise and engage with the neighbourhood on their own terms.

N. NiBhriain delivered the second half of the presentation and outlined the Playful Streets project in conjunction with Fingal County Council (FCC). The timeline for this project was discussed, and a report from phase 3 of the project can be made available to members of the SPC should they wish to read it.

Cllr. O’Hara thanked the speakers and commended the work by A Playful City.

Cllr. Gilligan expressed thanks for the presentation and queried what fees were waived by FCC for their Playful Street project, what traffic diversions are put in place for and how the road selection was carried out.

N. NiBhriain advised that the fees were in relation to road closure as per Section 75 of the Roads Act. Each Local Authority charges a fee for road closure and FCC waived these fees for this project. The proposed closure of the streets was advertised to allow members of the community to raise concerns or oppose to same.

The project was run on Sundays as traditionally it is the least busy day of the week and communities tended to choose a cul-de-sac or quieter street. Local access to the street is facilitated by stewards who are always present should a car need to get in/out of the street. In most cases, residents were happy to move their cars off the street.

E. Leech advised members that within the SDCC Annual Budget for 2024 there is an allocation for a pilot playstreet project in the summer of 2024.

**Agenda Item 4(i): Social, Community and Equality SPC Work Programme 2024**

E. Leech outlined the work programme for noting. Cllr. Gilligan expressed his support for same.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 4(ii): Social, Community and Equality SPC 2023 Review / 2024 Plans**

E. Clancy delivered the presentation, which outlined:

* The anticipated vs actual service level figures for 2023.
* An increase in the projected service levels for 2024 compared to 2023 accounting for the opening of Lucan Pool.
* The completion of 2 capital projects – Glenasmole Community Centre and Rahcoole Old Court House.
* Community Highlights of 2023.
* New projects of 2024 to be delivered including Play Streets and Dementia friendly Pilot.
* Capital projects due for completion in 2024 and those ongoing.
* Community events for 2024.

Cllr. Casserly expressed interest in the Dementia Pilot and asked if the “Spooky Walk” would be returning and if there would be a change in format for the Community Endeavour Awards. E. Clancy advised that the “Spooky Walk” will be returning in conjunction with Libraries and that the Endeavour Awards will look at showcasing projects rather than just holding a one-off event.

Cllr. Guéret queried what is the proposed Dementia Pilot and what format it will take. E. Leech advised that the pilot would take place in Rathfarnham and SDCC’s Age Friendly Alliance, as part of this pilot, will liaise with the local community and businesses, local pastoral centre, libraries and community centre, Alzheimer’s Association of Ireland, HSE Dementia Team and libraries to try connect these services.

Cllr. Gilligan asked about Rathcoole Old Court House operating hours and usage. E. Clancy advised that discussions are ongoing regarding same.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 5: Community Development Team Presentation**

J. Lumumba delivered the presentation giving an overview of the Community Development Team’s role, their 2023 achievements outlined the 2024 program.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 6: Overview of 2023 / 2024 Grants**

J. Lumumba delivered the presentation and advised that the South Dublin Grants Programme would launch in Q1 of 2024.

D. Hennesy queried if more data can be pulled from Salesforce to spot trends in areas for community grant applications and spending and, how is the Community Centre Management Fund advertised and what is the eligibility criteria. J. Lumumba advised Community Development Team can analyse the data at the end of 2024 to spot trends.
P. McAlerney advised the fund is available for all multi-purpose community centres but prioritised for those most in need of funding.

Cllr. Guéret enquired how much information communities are given before grants become available following queries from residents. P. McAlerney advised the Management Support Fund was designed to collate all funding strands into a singular fund rather than multiple funds for different grants. E. Leech advised that the grants booklet for 2024 would be circulated to members.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 7: LECP Update**

M. Nugent provided the update. The LCDC are working with KPMG to deliver a new LECP. Interim updates will be provided to members of the SPC as work progresses.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 8: Integration Team**

E. Clancy gave an update on the Integration Team, including its role and responsibilities. The team will be in place over the coming weeks, and SDCC will be working with the LGMA to finalise the remit of the team.

Ther report was noted.

**Agenda Item 9: Sensory Projects Pilot Programme**

S. Hogan delivered the presentation. SDCC are purchasing sensory boxes, which will be rolled out to 4 community centres on a pilot basis.

Cllr. Guéret queried the selection process for the community centres receiving the sensory boxes. S. Hogan advised these centres were chosen following consultation with several centres to determine the need and demand to optimise use. This programme will be run in collaboration with libraries as they have sensory boxes and run sensory programmes of their own.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business**

There was no other business, and the meeting concluded at 16:06pm.