



**MINUTES OF THE South Central Area Committee MEETING**

**HELD ON Wednesday, 15 March 2017**

1 Minutes of Meeting held on 15th February 2017

Order: Agreed.

2 Questions to the South Central Area Manager

Replies to Questions and the Area Manager's report circulated.

3 Roads & Traffic Matters

(i). Minutes of Traffic Advisory Group held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in relation to Traffic Matters in the South Central Area.

(ii). Traffic Service Requests, Status Report at 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

**Order: (i) Noted.**

(ii) Noted.

4 South Central Area Matters

**13 - 28**

(i). Presentation on Weed Management in the Area

(ii). Presentation on the National Children's Hospital

(iii). Presentation on St. Thomas's Abbey

(iv). Presentation on Francis Street

(v). Report on the 2017 Discretionary Fund Report.

(vi). Review of Shopfront Improvement Scheme.

(vii). Naming and numbering of new Housing Estate and Dwelling, 17 Crumlin Village, Crumlin, Dublin 12.

(viii). Naming and numbering of new Apartment Complex, Raleigh Square, Crumlin,  
**Dublin 12.**

(ix). Gully Cleaning Programme Report for the South Central Area.

(x). Area Manager's Report.

Order: (i) Presentation given by Les Moore, City Parks Superintendent

and

Shane Casey, Biodiversity Officer. Presentation noted.  
It was agreed that the South Central Area, in particular the Ballyfermot Area, would be a pilot area for the initiative.

(ii) Presentation given Eilish Hardiman, Chief Executive

Officer of

the Children's Hospital Group. Presentation noted.

(iii) Presentation given by Ruth Johnson, City Archaeologist.

- South  
Process.
- (iv) Presentation noted.  
Presentation given by David Healy, Administrative Officer,  
Central Area. Agreed to proceed to Part VIII Planning
  - (v) Agreed. Document circulated.
  - (vi) Noted.
  - (vii) Noted.
  - (viii) Noted.
  - (ix) Noted.
  - (x) The following report was given and was noted by the  
Members: -

Area Manager's Report  
South Central Area Committee  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**April Deadline for Questions and Motions**

The next Area Committee Meeting falls immediately after Easter and as such we are missing 2 working days. With the co-operation of the members I propose to revise the deadline for receipt of questions and motions to Monday the 3rd of April.

**SOUTH WEST INNER CITY AREA OFFICE REPORT**

**New Public Park, Cork Street**

A Part 8 Planning Application for a 0.6 hectare neighbourhood park on the site of the demolished Chamber Court and Weavers Court flats on Cork Street was agreed at the December 2015 City Council meeting. Site works commenced in February with an expected completion date of summer 2017.

**St. Audoen's Park, High Street**

St. Audoen's Park is included in the Liberties Greening Strategy. As part of the proposed improvements to High Street it is planned to enhance the area by improving accessibility, permeability and circulation throughout the park.

A Part 8 planning application for the project was agreed at the July 2016 City Council meeting. Tenders documents were issued in February with construction works likely to commence in early summer.

**Dolphins Barn**

A Public Realm Improvement Plan for Dolphins Barn is being prepared at present. The cost associated with the plan is provided for in the 2016 Discretionary Fund. A very well attended community workshop took place in St. Andrews Community Centre on 28<sup>th</sup> November last year. Councilors will be informed of a second community workshop which is expected to take place shortly.

**Newmarket**

A Public Realm Improvement Plan for Newmarket Square and its environs is now complete. The Plan describes, supports and guides the implementation of improvements to enhance the use and attractiveness of the area. Following agreement at the February Area Committee meeting a Part 8 planning application for the project was advertised on 20<sup>th</sup> February. A copy of the plan is available for

inspection in the Planning Department in the Civic Office for 6 weeks from that date.

### **Francis Street**

A Public Realm Improvement Plan for Francis Street is also nearing completion. As part of this process Councilors, local residents and retailers have been invited to an information meeting which is scheduled to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The plan provides for a more pedestrian friendly environment which encourages people to visit the area on foot. The plan also supports the continued commercial operation of the Arts and Antiques quarter. A report in relation to a part 8 planning application will be presented at this month's Area Committee meeting.

### **Michael Mallin House**

Works to convert 4 bedsits into 2 x 1 bedroomed units are due to commence shortly. Similar work is ongoing in Basin Street to convert 8 bedsits into 4 x 1 bedroomed units.

### **Playgrounds in Jim Mitchell Park and Bluebell**

Works to refurbish the playgrounds in Jim Mitchell Park, Inchicore and in Bluebell commenced on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> January and were completed by the middle of February.

### **Allotments**

There are 5 allotment sites in the South West Inner City. Licences have recently been renewed for 2017 at Weavers Square (27 plots), Braithwaite Street (19), Bridgefoot Street (20) and Grattan Crescent (40). In addition 17 new plots at St. Thomas Abbey, South Earl Street were allocated for the first time. A small number of allotment holders surrendered their plots which were re-allocated from the existing waiting list.

### **St. Teresa's Gardens**

Phase 1 of the St. Teresa's Gardens Regeneration Masterplan is now complete following the demolition of the 6 blocks on the Eugene Street side of the site. The refurbishment of 2 blocks at the front of the complex is also complete. There are currently 2 occupied flats in the 4 remaining blocks awaiting demolition. Tenders are being prepared at present to demolish the 2 rearmost vacant blocks.

The football club moved into new ground floor premises in the front refurbished block in January whilst the boxing club are due to make a similar move shortly.

Enabling works for the building of 34 houses and 16 apartments are ongoing. Tenders documents are due to be issued in quarter 2 with a view to the construction of the new dwellings starting in quarter 3 this year.

Precinct Improvement Works in the area between the refurbished blocks are expected to take place during the summer months. This will include a small playground, plaza, additional parking and electronic gates.

### **Dolphin House**

A part VIII planning application was approved at the October 2014 City Council meeting for demolition, new build and refurbishment at Dolphin House (phase 1). A total of 96 existing flats will be replaced by 100 new units. The demolition of the 2 'canal' blocks was completed in early 2016 whilst the new build and refurbishment commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> October last year and is progressing satisfactorily. Work is scheduled to be completed in Autumn 2018.

The refurbishment of the 'long blocks' will be phase 2 of the project.

A site at the rear of the football pitch has been identified for older persons apartments. Planning permission was granted to Fold Housing Association in November 2016 for 42 units of this type of accommodation together with a community centre. Construction is expected to start in mid 2017. It would be the intention to transfer the existing tenants in Dolphin Park to the new dwellings. Dolphin Park, which consists of 44 bedsits, would then be demolished to allow for new housing to be developed on the site.

#### **Culture Date with Dublin 8**

**Culture Date with Dublin 8 is finalising details of its programme for the weekend 12th - 14th May. Events and activities will take place in IMMA, Kilmainham Gaol, Richmond Barracks and Goldenbridge Cemetery with guided walking tours from Pat Liddy who will link all the institutions together over the weekend. All events will be free to the public. Activities to take place on the weekend include: A new exhibition launch at Richmond Barracks, free guided tours, an artist studio workshop and family activities at IMMA, speciality tours and family activities in Kilmainham Gaol, and the re-opening of Goldenbridge Cemetery with an outdoor public concert.**

**The workspace scheme initiative is currently underway with institutions being paired with local workspaces to provide free lunch time tours on the Friday of the programme. There is great interest from the local workplaces for the project in general. Promotional and marketing material will be launched in April and a map is being created for the project which will highlight the route between all the institutions taking part in the initiative.**

#### **SOUTH INNER CITY COMMUNITY UPDATE FEBRUARY 2017**

**Dolphins Barn Easter Celebrations**

**The Back of the Pipes Residents Association will host their Easter programme of events in the park at Dolphins Barn.**

**Creating a Sense of Pride in Modern Ireland**

**The Irish U.N. Veterans Association will visit local schools throughout the South Central Area in the coming weeks to raise awareness of how Ireland and its Defence Forces are perceived around the world.**

**Environmental Activities**

**Planning begins in all areas to promote environmental competitions such as Tidy Towns, Pride of Place and City Neighborhoods' Awards including area cleanups, spring clean Week etc.**

**Community & Social Development staff are involved in the installation of Schwegler Triple Cavity Swift Nest Boxes at St Bridget's School in the Coombe to include sound systems for playing attraction calls in addition to Swift Conservation talks and workshops for the teachers and pupils.**

**Community & Social Development staff are acting in an advisory capacity to the students from NCAD who are designing Swift Conservation nest bricks using materials similar to those used in the Dolphin's Barn Brick which is very much a part of the heritage of the Liberties and surrounding area's.**

**Residents Groups**

**We are supporting the residents of various areas to start/restart Residents/Community Groups in order to support areas in environmental**

improvements, deal with issues, support family/youth projects etc across the area.

International Women's Day

A number of events have been successfully held across all areas to celebrate International Women's Day including:

- A Celebration of Women's Fashion down through the years.
- A piano recital by a local composer from the Liberties.
- A presentation from the Curator of The National Museum who will speak about "The Origins of The Irish Costume".
- A presentation Local Historian Cathy Scuffil on the "History of Weaving in the Liberties Area".

The Kilmainham Arts Group hosted an Arts Night showcasing female talent and vision.

The Basin Lane Residents Group hosted a lunch time get together for the residents of Basin Lane.

A safety talk by the Local Community Gardaí was held for the Crumlin Senior Citizens group in St Kevin School Clogher Road.

Dublin 12 Mediation Group in hosted free taster sessions in mediation, head, shoulder, hand massage and ear acupuncture In the St Kevin's College and Stannaway Court Wednesday.

## CRUMLIN AREA OFFICE REPORT

New Children's Playground – Stannaway Park

Works to create a new children's play area in Stannaway Park commenced last month.

This small play area will cater for young children between 2 and 7 years of age and will be natural in style to blend in with the grassland of the existing park. Play features will be constructed of natural materials and will be set into the landscape within gentle mounded forms. Seating will be provided as part of the works. The play area is funded from the South Central Area Discretionary Fund 2016.

Improvement works at Cashel Avenue and Captains Avenue

Improvement works at Cashel Avenue consisting of new parking zones, new footpaths and a plinth wall surrounding the green commenced on 16<sup>th</sup> January and are due to be completed by the middle of this month. Similar works at Captains Avenue started on 6<sup>th</sup> March with an expected completion date of mid April. The works are funded from the South Central Area Discretionary Fund 2016.

Brickfield Park

Works to install an all weather pitch in Brickfield Park are now complete. A licence agreement is being prepared at present to ensure the optimum operation of the facility. The new pitch was funded by Dublin City Council and Sports Capital grants.

The first match to be played on the new pitch was an u/18 women's match between St. John Bosco FC and Terenure Rangers FC. The game took place

on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March and finished in a 2-2 draw with 'the Bosco' winning on penalties.

#### CRUMLIN/KIMMAGE COMMUNITY UPDATE

Dublin City Council Community and Social Development team are organising Birds of Ireland workshops during March and April in a number of Schools in the Crumlin area. The first of these will take place in Rosary College within the next few weeks.

A working group is to be set up to investigate the possibility of using Restorative Practices as a mechanism for working throughout the Dublin 12 and Dublin 8 areas. The focus will be on building sustainable working relationships throughout the community, voluntary and statutory. The first meeting takes place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Eblana House at 4pm.

#### Crumlin Walkinstown Forum

Community and Social Development are continuing to support the Crumlin Walkinstown Forum in their environmental improvement activities. The Crumlin Village clean up will take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 6p.m.

#### St Patrick's Day/Seachtain na Gailge

Community & Social Development staff is supporting a Monster Céilí with local schools in the Liberties during St Patrick's Week (15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> March) in St. Catherine's Sports Centre.

CCMA and the Community & Social Development staff are providing singing and dancing with the Memory Lane Choir and the CCMA set dancing troop in St. Agnes' Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> March with members of the RTE Symphony Orchestra and the CCMA Trad Group.

#### Easter Celebrations

Dublin City Council Community and Social Development team are supporting Fr. Kitt Court Committee in hosting a tea dance for Residents to celebrate Easter.

#### International Women's Day

A number of events have been successfully held across all areas to celebrate International Women's Day including:

- A safety talk by the Local Community Gardaí was held for the Crumlin Senior Citizens group in St Kevin School Clogher Road.
- Dublin 12 Mediation Group hosted free taster sessions in mediation, head, shoulder, hand massage and ear acupuncture In the St Kevin's College and Stannaway Court Wednesday.

#### BALLYFERMOT AREA OFFICE REPORT

##### Ballyfermot Road Public Realm Improvement Plan

The consultants engaged for the project will present their Draft Design Proposal to the South Central Area Manager on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March for review and a further Public Presentation will then take place in early April.

#### BALLYFERMOT/DRIMNAGH COMMUNITY UPDATE

##### Ballyfermot Road Public Realm Improvement Plan

The consultants engaged for the project will present their Draft Design Proposal to the South Central Area Manager on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March for

**review and a further Public Presentation will then take place in early April.**

**Ballyfermot / Chapelizod**

**The Community Development team are working closely with the Ballyfermot Partnership and the South City Partnership to ensure that both teams work collaboratively on initiatives regarding capacity building, environment, older people and mental health.**

**Teanga Beo – Naionra – Pre School, Convent Lawns**

**The first Irish language Pre-school “Teanga Beo – Naionra” and Irish Language centre is now open and accepting registrations in the newly refurbished Convent Lawns bungalow off Kylemore Road, Ballyfermot. The centre will also host Irish language and cultural events in association with the local residents and the surrounding community.**

**Passion Project D10**

**Planning on the D10-Art Passion Project is well underway. The Art project is in collaboration with Dublin City Council’s Local Area and Arts Office, Dublin Culture Connects, Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre Social Economy Ltd., and various community and local school projects. The project is taking place on April 8th and 9th 2017 commencing in Cherry Orchard and finishing up in lower Ballyfermot. Promotion and publicity for the project will be commencing this week.**

**Resident Groups / Community Clean Ups**

**Community staff are in contact with Resident Groups in Ballyfermot, Bluebell and Chapelizod to support and encourage clean ups during the month of April which is An Taisce spring clean up. Community groups will be encouraged to get involved with the Good Friday Big Clean Up.**

**International Women’s Day**

**Dublin City Council supported local community organisations to organise events to mark International Women’s Day. In Drimnagh and Bluebell the Ladies Club and Bluebell Centre organised a talk titled "Be bold for Change"**

**Drimnagh / Walkinstown**

**It is proposed to host a welcome/information event in local venues for the new residents of the modular housing units in Drimnagh. Information leaflets of services, facilities and local amenities are being prepared. Council staff are working with local community organisations towards organising welcome events / open days in early June.**

**Walkinstown Green**

**In conjunction with the parks department and the local schools in Walkinstown community staff are arranging tree planting on Walkinstown Green. The aim is to continue promoting the importance of the environmental and follows on from the "Bulbs not Bomb fires" campaign organised last autumn.**

**Inchicore Residents Association**

**Following a request from the A.G.M. of Inchicore Residents Association the Community Development Team will support the committee:  
To hold a family day to coincide with an official opening of the revamped play area in Ring Street Park.  
To set-up a volunteer environmental team for each street to enter the City Neighborhoods’ Competition**

5 Community, Culture, Economic and Emergency Services

- (i) Public Library Events for March 2017 – South Central Area.
- (ii) Sport and Recreation Report for March 2017 – South Central Area

**Order: (i) Noted.**  
(ii) Noted.

6 Planning and Economic Development Matters

- (i) With further reference to the disposal of a site at Ushers Street, Dublin 8 to P. Elliott and Company Limited, (disposal of the fee simple in the common areas to the Management Company).
- (ii) Proposed grant of a licence to Liam Hicks (on behalf of St. Teresa's Football Club) at 64-66 Donore Avenue, St. Teresa's Gardens, Dublin 8.
- (iii) Proposed disposal of a site at Dolphin Park, Dolphin House, Dublin 8, the grant of a Building Licence and of a Right of Access at same address to Fold Housing Association.
- (iv) ***Proposed disposal of the Council's fee simple interest in part of the premises at No. 67 Keeper Road (now known as 67A Keeper Road), Crumlin, Dublin 12.***

Order: (i) Agreed. Recommend to Council.  
(ii) Agreed. Recommend to Council.  
**(i) Agreed. Recommend to Council.**  
**(ii) Agreed. Recommend to Council.**

7 Emergency Motions

29 - 32

**Standing Orders was suspended to deal with the following Emergency Motions: -**

Emergency Motion in the name of Councillors Daithi Doolan, Greg Kelly and Críona Ní Dhálaigh

**The South Central Area Committee wishes to acknowledge the important work carried out by city council staff in local offices. Local offices provide an essential service to elected representatives and the public. This committee express concern that the Crumlin Area Office has been closed to the public on a number of occasions over the past fortnight forcing the public to access services from other offices .We call on management to ensure the Crumlin office remains open to the public Monday to Friday during office hours.**

Order: Report noted.

Emergency Motion in the name of Councillor Pat Dunne



This Area Committee notes with dismay the effective closure of the Crumlin Area office as of the Monday 6th March when the last clerical officer based in Crumlin was transferred to Marrowbone Lane. We further note that despite months of protestations and earlier motions, that the office has closed with no public access to services. We call for the immediate re-opening of the office with a full compliment of staff.

Order: Report noted.

Emergency Motion in the name of Councillor Críona Ní Dhálaigh\_

1. That this Area Committee is concerned at the negative impact of proposed traffic changes in the city on the Liberties area. These changes coupled with the already increase in traffic in the area due to new residential developments, tourist destinations and general development in the area will increase traffic particularly on the roads and streets around the Cork Street and Bridgefoot street area.
2. That we believe that increased traffic for instance on Cork Street could have a negative effect on the already significant pedestrian use, especially on those walking to schools and numerous child care facilities nearby, with increased pollution and difficulties trying to cross this street daily. Much of the traffic is through traffic and is not local.
3. That this Area Committee believes that there is a need for a traffic study (including an audit of the existing traffic, the pedestrian and cyclist volumes in the area) to be carried out and steps taken to lessen the negative impact of the increased traffic before the life is choked out of local community. That that study would also look at projections for increases in traffic specifically around increased development on local sites, displaced parking from nearby areas, traffic avoiding the Quays and other traffic changes proposed or connected to ongoing LUAS works. That such a study would also examine issues such as the increase in air pollution; or pedestrian safety especially for vulnerable people such as children and older population?
4. That the study including the analysis of the negative effects of increased traffic on areas being split by increased through flows and that it lays out recommendations regarding mitigation measures to address the future traffic problems and impacts such as: traffic calming; speed cameras; new pedestrian crossings such as at Brickfield Lane where a major new development is to begin; tree planting and general greening of the streets and an overall environmental scheme.

**Order: Agreed. Refer to the Transportation SPC**

8 March 2017 Motions

**494 Councillor Ray McHugh**

**This Area Committee agree that the Area Manager should contact the HSE to request if their disused premises on Parnell Road could be considered for the use of a Man's Shed for the Crumlin area.**

**Order: Agreed.**

**495 Councillor Paul Hand**

**That this Area Committee condemns the Minister for Transport for his recent actions regarding the Bus Eireann dispute. This Area Committee requests that the Minister proactively engage with Bus Eireann management and unions to resolve this situation and in doing this guarantee that the state subvention to Bus Eireann be increased to pre-2008 levels to guarantee this valuable public service. Furthermore we request that this motion be sent to the Minister for his consideration.**

**Order: Agreed.**

496 Councillor Greg Kelly  
**This Area Committee reconfirmed our full support for Dublin Fire Brigade, and call on DCC management to go back to the consultative process at the Ambulance Forum. The action of DCC management to collapse the process has been disgraceful and needs to be addressed**

**Order: Agreed.**

497 Councillor Daithi Doolan  
**This Area Committee welcomes the declaration that Travellers are to be recognised as a distinct ethnic minority in Ireland. This is a positive development and the Committee congratulates all those who have campaigned on this issue.**

**Order: Agreed.**

498 Councillor Michael Mullooly  
This Area Committee calls on the Housing SPC to review the priority given to homeless persons in the Housing Allocation Scheme, 2013 in particular, the definition of homelessness, the lack of priority given to those about to fall into homelessness, to reflect the fact that persons can be de facto homeless but not availing of homeless services provided by the local authority or others and the lack of priority for children who are homeless or about to fall into homelessness.

**Order: Deferred to the April Meeting.**

499 Councillor Paul Hand  
**In light of the upcoming lands initiative on St. Michael's Estate in our area, this Area Committee requests that local employment clauses be inserted into any tender documents in order to provide the maximum local gain for the wider Dublin 8 area. Additionally we would request that Dublin City Council use the construction as an opportunity for the Housing Maintenance Section to employ new apprentices who can gain experience on this site and replace our ageing staff profile in this section of Dublin City Council.**

**Order: Agreed. Refer to the Housing SPC.**

500 Councillor Daithi Doolan  
This Area Committee calls on Dublin City Council to designate racially motivated violence as a distinct type of anti social behaviour and those involved will be in direct breach of City Council's tenancy agreement.

**Order: Report noted. Report to Councillor.**

501 Councillor Michael Mullooly  
In light of the fact that Dublin City Council spends €650,000 cleaning up 2,600 tonnes of illegal waste and given the proliferation of fly-tipping in Dublin South Central, this Area Committee calls on the Area Manager to consider the use of drones in addition to CCTV as a key resource to detect and provide evidence of fly-tipping and the dumping of waste.

**Order: Deferred to the April Meeting.**

502 Councillor Daithi Doolan  
**This Area Committee calls on the DRHE to facilitate the sharing of names and contact details of those families from Dublin 10 who are in emergency accommodation with the Ballyfermot Homeless Initiative. This will allow the organisation to contact them and**

provide support services to families in hotels and B&Bs.  
Order: Deferred to the April Meeting.

- 503 Councillor Paul Hand  
That this area committee supports proposals to reinvigorate Lansdowne Valley Pitch and Putt complex as a mixed Footgolf and Pitch and Putt facility for the local community. This would provide additional recreational facilities for the area, provide for new and local jobs for the area and safeguard the recreational amenity at this location for all to enjoy.  
Order: Deferred to the April Meeting.

9 February Questions and Answers

**Listed**

10 Any Other Business

One minutes silence was observed at the start of the meeting as a mark of respect for the tragic loss of the 4 crew members from Rescue 116, the Coast Guard Helicopter that crashed off the Mayo coast on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Councillor Paul Hand**  
**Chairperson**  
**Wednesday, 15 March 2017**

**Attendance:**

**Members:**

Paul Hand (Chairperson)  
Michael Mullooly  
Greg Kelly  
Criona Ni Dhalaigh

**Members:**

Hazel De Nortuin  
Ray McHugh  
Pat Dunne

**Members:**

Vincent Jackson  
Rebecca Moynihan  
Daithi Doolan

**Officers**

**Apologies:**

Tina McVeigh

**Non-Members:**



## Discretionary Funds Report to Area Committee

A fund of €1 million has been allocated from the Annual Budget to each Local Area to be allocated and spent at the discretion of the elected members for that Area. The fund is Public Monies that are meant to augment the Public Service provision of Dublin City Council in the Area. Dublin City Council Services are funded through Budgets approved annually by a full meeting of City Council. The expenditure of the funds budgeted for different services are spent in accord with the priorities of the Executive.

The Fund is a participatory budgeting arrangement whereby Councillors can determine their priorities in the allocation of the Fund. Thus a specific fund dedicated to the Area and not to central services allows Councillors to prioritise their funding for the Area. **The Fund is not advertised or notified to the general public or to interest groups in the Area and is not a grant provision for community groups.** Decisions made by elected members or officials which provide grant support or funding to community groups or organisations should be subject to good governance and a transparent process with clear criteria against which judgements are made and can be justified. Failure to do so opens up Councillors and Officials to charges of favouritism and/or seeking electoral /career advancement through the use of Public Funds , without clearly agreed and promoted processes for application and decision. This particular Discretionary Fund mechanism should ensure that funding is therefore not made available as a form of grant, and that Councillors are not subjected to lobbying or criticism for decisions made.

Funding decisions made under the Fund will be managed and delivered in the following manner :

- A letter of approval for spend and any conditions attaching will issue from the Executive.
- Each funded initiative will be required to provide a delivery/implementation plan against a timeframe and the objectives of the Project/Initiative.
- Each Funded initiative /project will be required to report on progress and spend to the Executive and a quarterly report will be provided to the Area Committee.
- Funding will, as a rule be dispersed on the basis of commencement and completion of the Project/Initiative.

A review of Project/Initiative spend will happen with Councillors in early June and in early October . Councillors may reallocate funds on the occasion of the Review.

The Area Executive identified a range of possible spending options designed to improve and expand the service provision of Dublin City Council in the Area. These options were presented to Councillors as a starting point for decisions. Councillors requested that they consider the allocation of funds within their designated Local Electoral Areas and the total available be split equally between the Areas. This arrangement has the disadvantage that service provision that is Area wide is split in the process of decision making. The Executive have made it clear that in this context only the expenditure agreed in each of the Electoral Areas would be spent in the Electoral Areas. This would apply in particular to additional expenditure on Environmental improvements and the Public Realm.

The Area Executive also stressed that as the body required to administer and account for fund spend, they would exercise due diligence and in the public interest were entitled not to administer

spend where such spend could not be justified. In the case of dispute the opinion of the Local Government Auditor could be sought.

**The Area Executive also stressed that given the limitations on staff resources it was imperative that the workload for proper administration and monitoring of funding allocations was such that it could be handled within current staff numbers.** This would be greatly assisted if allocations of funds were not for significant sums of money and if where possible the delivery of the outcomes expected could be directly managed by Dublin City Council staff.

**The following Criteria were agreed with Councillors to guide their considerations.:**

**Discretionary Funds Agreed Criteria for assessment ; South Central Area**

The Discretionary funds **should not be used** to address deficits in funding for core service provision by the Service Departments operating under central Management from Civic Offices.

The Fund allocation **should however augment and improve services** operated directly from the Area Office and under the responsibility of the Area Committee.

- 1) In allocating funds the objective would be to provide **legacy benefit** to South Central and its citizens. Legacy benefit will arise by targeting funding on policy around key issues, capital infrastructure around civic space/public realm and civic buildings, and actions to advance the economic/social/cultural/identity development of the villages in the area.

**Legacy benefit** is defined as a benefit that lasts beyond the year of expenditure and opens possibilities for further benefit in subsequent years. This could arise from research/policy on a key issue or potential future development that strategically changes the policy and funding norms of Council and other agencies. It could also arise from environmental improvement in an area. It could also arise from improvement in the service centred provision of civic buildings that enable community development.

- 2) Discretionary funds **should not address the target community intervention already covered , albeit in a resource limited way, by community grant funding.**
- 3) **Discretionary Funding should be allocated at sufficient scale to make a real and substantial difference and ensure completion of the initiative without reliance on “matching funding” from within DCC.**
- 4) To comply with public ethics and transparency **discretionary funding should not be provided to any initiative in which an elected member or official has a direct and substantive interest in** which yields benefit to said member or official
- 5) Discretionary funding **capital expenditure is limited to structural improvements and renovation of buildings or public space in Council ownership .**
- 6) Discretionary funding **cannot be used to augment salaries , recruit staff , or run programmes that are not self sustaining and fund secured in subsequent years.**
- 7) Any Discretionary funding allocated to policy/strategic studies **will be directed and under the oversight of a task group of Elected members agreed by the Area Committee** for each distinct study/policy research. The Task group may choose to co-opt subject matter expertise to assist with such oversight. **The contractual decision as to who is allocated the work , following due tender process, will rest solely with the task group.**

The Area Office will prepare for approval by the Area Committee a Discretionary funding delivery Plan by the end of April . This Plan will identify the overall and legacy objective of each project/initiative, a timeline for delivery and the sum of money allocated. This Plan will be made available to the public. Each initiative delivered under the funding will erect and maintain a sign stating that the initiative was supported by funding provided by collective decision of the South Central Area Committee.

Initiatives funded under the Discretionary Fund should be delivered completely within the 2017 Calendar year. In circumstances where work is not complete the project may be permitted to carry over allocated funding to early 2018.

#### The Process

- 1 A list of recommended Projects/Initiatives was proposed to Councillors by the Executive. This List reflected a range of Projects that required completion or commencement. The Projects were submitted by Housing, Public Domain, Community and Management. They were focused on creating legacy impact, benefiting the largest number of citizens and addressing the Public infrastructure and service provision in the Area.
- 2 Councillors met as two sub groups based on their electoral Area and considered the list submitted by the Executive. They submitted an alternative list.
- 3 Meetings took place between Councillors and the Executive to discuss the alternative list and review how the projects/initiatives on it fitted the agreed criteria. In reviewing the list the Executive sought clarification as to the following in respect of additional/alternative items listed by Councillors:
  - How was the alternative spending item identified/proposed
  - What was the spend purpose and objective/outcome of the initiative/project/spend
  - Who would be responsible for managing/delivering/accounting for the spend
  - What evidence / case was presented that the required funds reflected an accurate costing that covered the costs of the initiative/project/spend
- 4 On the basis of those meetings and discussions the Executive drafted a recommended list for consideration and approval by Councillors.

#### Concerns Of the Executive:

- The alternative/additional items listed in many cases related to approaches for funding support made to Councillors, sometimes initiated by Officials. While the projects/initiatives are worthy and valuable, the process of nomination/proposal, while undertaken in good faith does not meet the agreed criteria and is subject to criticism through lack of transparency, and declared process/criteria covering acceptance and decision making.
- The Costing of some alternative proposals did not provide evidence that the cost was calculated to deliver on the objective.
- The initial decision in respect of some alternative projects to award only a percentage of the funds requested does not create confidence that the funds would in practise secure the outcome/objective of the project, assuming the costings were indeed accurate in the first instance.
- The administration of projects/initiatives that require contractual arrangements with third parties increase the administration/monitoring workload on staff.

## Parks

One of the major services provided to citizens is the provision and maintenance of Public Parks. The Parks Department have indicated that they have a budget of €60K to spend on the South Central Area. They have identified initiatives to the value of €134K that they would like to deliver in South Central in 2017. They have requested that Councillors consider assisting this spend in the allocation of the Discretionary funds.

The desired target initiatives and associated spend are attached.

## **Recommendations for Approval to Councillors :**

### **Section 1**

### **Crumlin/Kimmage**

#### **Public Domain & Environmental Improvement**

This heading covers the Public Domain function and the provision of environmental improvements.

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Dog Fouling & Bins	20K	This will be handled by the Public Domain Team. Its delivery is subject to agreement on collection and location with Waste Management
Utility Community Box Art	10K	This will be led by the Community Development Team in co-operation with Public Domain. It will only relate to DCC Utility Boxes
Environmental Security St Audeons School	5K	This will be delivered by the Community Development Team
Illegal Dumping & Kilmainham Lane Green Space	10K	This will be delivered by the Public Domain Team . The funds allocated are not sufficient for the work involved and may restrict illegal dumping by CCTV to this single area.
Environmental Improvement in Dolphins Barn	30 K	This is funding that is being made available and will be managed by the Project Manager handling the Public Realm developments in Dolphins Barn. It will allow for initiatives to improve the environment and facilities as the Action Plan is taken to Part 8 implementation in 2017. The funds will be reviewed in October and reallocated within this broad heading if not used or earmarked by that stage.
Ceannt Fort Centenary	5K	This will be managed by Community in consultation with residents and used for environmental improvements to mark the centenary of this unique Local Authority estate.

**Total allocated to Public Domain 80K .**



No provision has been made for additional street cleaning, provision of supplies for community clean ups to community groups, provision of three tier planters, or provision of extra plant and crews at Halloween.

In accordance therefore with the wishes of Councillors these are not funding priorities in this sub area of South Central for 2017.

### **Parks and Environmental Upgrades**

This covers areas of upgrades to Parks or to facilities such as Playgrounds or open/common areas.

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
D 12 Park benches	12K	This will be managed by the Project Officer in conjunction with Parks, Housing and Community who will identify possible locations for Benches
Memorial Garden to Fire Officers – Dolphins Barn Fire Station	10K (estimate)	This will be managed by the Project Officer in conjunction with the Fire Service, Parks and if required the Arts Office. The allocated sum may not be adequate and depends on the design and scope of the initiative.
Rialto Mens Shed	22K	This will be handled by the Project Manager Dolphins Barn regeneration project and will allow for changes to the Rent Office on site to accommodate the Mens Shed.
Willie Pearse Park –Hurling Wall	20K	This is an initiative listed by Parks in their targeted work. They list the cost as 50K which would use the 30K available for this sub area to reach the required funding for this initiative. The Project will be managed by Parks.
Upgrade Playground in Brickfield Park	50K	This will be managed by Parks. The sum allocated will be spent on equipment. It remains unclear as to the need for the sum allocated relative to the needs in the Playground. An evaluation of need to spend will be required before funds are spent.
Painting & Upgrade Galtymore Park	15K	This was listed also on the Parks List at a cost of 20K. The 15K will be transferred to Parks and the delivery, to the extent that funds permit will be managed by Parks.
Playground Upgrade for Pool Street Playground	60K	This is a Playground in the Inner City that is located adjacent to Dublin City Council Housing and has been subject to wear & tear and vandalism. The Playground is widely used by the Community. The funds will be

		managed by the Project Officer in conjunction with Parks and Housing. If funds permit and or additional funds are made available through housing additional upgrades in Flat complexes in the Liberties will be advanced.
Enviromental Upgrades to Open Space at Bangor/Clonmacnoise/Lismore/Durrow	35K	This will be managed by the Project Officer.
Lissadel Court Kitchen Upgrade	20K	This will be managed by the Housing Manger in Crumlin.

**Total Allocated : € 244K**

### **Security and Safety**

This covers expenditure that enhances security in particular in Local Authority Housing .

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Basin Street CCTV upgrade and road surface repairs	€44K	This will be managed by the Housing Manager in this area.

**Total allocated : €44K**

### **Policy Initiatives**

These are research and forward planning initiatives designed to develop Policy and Action Plans to enable the development of the social, economic and environmental well being for citizens and communities.

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Integrated Plan to address Economic Development in Dublin 8 and the Housing/Homeless challenge	€30	Dublin 8 in particular the Liberties & Kilmainham has significant social disadvantage while at the same time being economically vibrant in terms of retail, tourism, digital technologies and Health care. It is also the location in the City that has the highest number of homeless and drug treatment facilities. The study , which may be in two parts, should identify how economic development and investment can be encouraged and how the facilities for homeless people and addicts can be positively developed and managed. In addition it should examine future housing and retail provision that maintain the Area's character and encourage new settlement in the area.
Tackling the Underlying causes of crime and anti-social	€7.5K	The North East Inner City Task Force have identified a plan and resource

behaviour in the South West Inner City and Cherry Orchard.		requirement for building community resilience and tackling crime. This study would identify and recommend a package of similar methods and programmes and budget to tackle the similar yet different needs in these targeted areas. The estimated cost would be 15K and the expectation is that the 7.5K would be matched by Ballyfermot/Drimnagh of the LCDC
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**Total allocated : € 37.5K**

**Maintenance of service**

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Crumlin Swimming Pool	€35K	This is allocated to provide staffing to keep the pool open for individual swimmers on a Saturday afternoon. It would be transferred to and managed by Culture & Recreation. The Crumlin Pool is an asset in the area and heavily used by clubs and schools. It does not attract significant individual usage and there is a need to address the long term operation, management and viability of this resource.

**Total allocation € 35K**

**Total Recommended allocations above € 440.5K**

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**Initiatives and Projects not recommended**

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount proposed</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Library on Keeper Road	€30 K	This is a proposal to bring Fr Lar Redmond Hall into use again and to encourage the Library Service to establish a Library branch there for Drimnagh. It is the opinion of the Executive that this is not a valuable use of Public Funds as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Libraries do not regard it as a suitable building or location.</li> <li>2) The €30 K refurbishment is not based on an objective and identified figure for work</li> <li>3) There is no community group/organisation seeking to take a licence on the Hall</li> <li>4) The Hall's location and ground</li> </ul>

		would be better used for other purposes such as housing infill. <b><i>It is recommended that instead €20 be allocated for demolition and €5K be allocated for the marketing and promotion of Crumlin Swimming Pool.</i></b>
Crumlin Bowling Club	€ 11K	Not eligible under the criteria
Donore Boxing Club	€ 20K	Not eligible under the criteria
St Catherines Boxing Club	€2.5K	Not eligible under the criteria
Donore Community Drugs Team	€2.5K	Not eligible under the criteria
Poddle Close Development	€15K	Details are not provided and the adequacy of this sum not proven. 10K could be reassigned to Public Domain and Environmental and a plan developed for its use in this area.
Fencing at Bridgefoot Street	Not costed	Parks responsibility

**Total not recommended : € 81K**

<p><b><u>Total Available € 500K</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Total recommended for approval €440K</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Total not recommended €81 K</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Combined totals as presented by Councillors €521 K exceeding funds available by €21K</u></b></p>
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**The Area Executive recommend that the €60 K available from not recommended headings be allocated as follows :**

- 1) **20 K for the demolition of Fr Lar Redmond Hall**
- 2) **5K for the marketing and promotion of Crumlin Swimming Pool**
- 3) **10K for environmental improvements in Poddle Close**
- 4) **10K for Street Cleaning –Wash Programme**
- 5) **15K for village signage**

**In the event that it is not considered a good use of funds to demolish Fr Lar Redmond Hall it is recommended that the 20K be allocated to Public Domain providing 5k for Halloween costs and 15K for Illegal Dumping measures.**

## Section 2

### Ballyfermot/Drimnagh

#### Public Domain & Environmental Improvement

Project/Initiative	Amount proposed	Remarks
Urban Village Wash Prog	€25K	Managed by Public Domain – required that purchase of machine explored as option. Expenditure to this sum only.
Shopping Precinct Wash Prog	€15K	Managed by Public Domain. Expenditure to this sum only
Pavement Proofing	€5K	Managed by Public Domain. Expenditure to this sum only
Tree Planters	€15K	Managed by Public Domain. Expenditure to this sum only
Dog Fouling	€5K	Managed by Public Domain. Expenditure to this sum only
Dumping	€20K	Managed by Public Domain. Expenditure to this sum only
Halloween	€5K	Managed by Public Domain. Expenditure to this sum only
Utility Community Box Art	€6K	Managed by Community in partnership with Public Domain . DCC Boxes only.
Cherry Orchard Tree Planting	€ 10 K	Managed by Housing Manager in Partnership with Parks
Bluebell Environmental Improvements	€13k	Managed by Community in partnership with Roads and Parks
Chapelizod Environmental Improvements	€5K	Managed by Community
Kilmainham & Inchicore Environmental Improvement Scheme	€25K	Led by Kilmainham /Inchicore Network Officer in partnership with Community and Parks
Inchicore Shopfront Improvement Programme	€ 20K	Managed by Kilmainham /Inchicore Network Officer
Cherry Orchard It's Ours Programme	€ 33K	Environmental and Social engagement Programme and Awards managed and led by Project Manager Cherry Orchard Development
Slieve Bloom Park Road Environmental improvements	€ 3K	Managed by Project Officer. More details needed and accuracy of funding amount to be clarified.
Installation of Railings at Bunting Park	€40 K	Managed by Parks. Completion of boundary improvement Programme commenced in 2016
Lansdowne Valley Park – Footpath Upgrade New Entrance at Mourne Road	€ 25K	This is being delivered from the Parks Budget and is managed by Parks

**Total allocated €245K plus the €25K from Parks**

### Infrastructure and Buildings

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount proposed</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
The Bungalow Improvements	€ 12K	Managed by Community –provision of unified boiler and cost overrun on construction in 2016. SEAI Grants to be explored.
Bosco Youth Centre	€ 30K	Repairs and renovation of DCC owned building leased to Bosco . Managed by Project Officer, payment against invoices.
Ballyfermot Sports Centre/Gurteen Youth Centre	€40K	DCC owned building requiring upgrade to CCTV Cameras and lighting. Managed by Project Officer, payment against invoices
Teanga Beo Baile	€ 10 K	DCC owned building requiring replacement of security shutters and completion of minor works . Managed by Project Officer
Vincent street West Lighting Upgrade	€ 15K	Lighting development with new light poles on Vincent Street West.
Provision of Radio/Music Centre for Bluebell Community Centre	€ 500	DCC owned building.
Lifestart Project	€ 7K	This is for replacement of windows and improvements to the DCC owned Building which provides a Base for Lifestart. Councillors recommended €5K but as it is a DCC property and the estimated cost is €7K the executive recommends meeting full cost.
Labre Park	€10K	Funding of Portacabin for Community Use. This adds to the DCC infrastructure on this Housing Site.
Orchard centre	€2.5K	Provision of special dance floor in DCC building to enhance building for Irish Dancing Classes

**Total allocated : €127 K**

### Policy Initiatives

These are research and forward planning initiatives designed to develop Policy and Action Plans to enable the development of the social, economic and environmental well being for citizens and communities.

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount proposed</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Study on Options to Land Use on Institutional Lands in Lower Ballyfermot	€ 10K	This is to allow for a forward planning and consultation study on potential use of lands that will become available in Lower Ballyfermot

**Total allocated €10K**

## Total Recommended allocations above € 382K

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### *Initiatives and Projects not recommended*

<b>Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Amount proposed</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Cherry Orchard Social Circus	€5K	Not eligible under the criteria. Unclear in costings and intent.
Ballyfermot Irish Language	€7K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme
Inchicore Variety Club	€ 1K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme
Ballyfermot Resource Centre	€ 20K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme
Boxing/Youth Bus	€ 14K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme. The costs are for refurbishment of existing buses and the cost base is questionable.
Ballyfermot Star	€ 15K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme
Bluebell Youth Project	€ 1.5K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no

		application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme
Candle Community Trust	€ 25K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme. The requested sum by Candle was €160 K . The programme/spend purpose was not identified to the Executive and the proposed funding would not meet the €160 K sought which brings into question the viability of the allocation proposed.
Ballyfermot Youth Football	€ 7K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme
Familibase	€ 15K	Not eligible under the criteria. This appears to be a grant to a community group. Not all groups had access and notice that they could seek funds; no application process, criteria and transparent decision making appropriate for a community grant programme. Familibase already in receipt of an approval for 86K under Community Funding.

**Total not recommended : € 110.5K**

<p><b><u>Total Available € 500K</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Total recommended for approval €382K</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Total not recommended €110K</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Combined totals as presented by Councillors €492 K leaving available funds of €8K</u></b></p>
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**The Area Executive recommend that the €118 K available from not recommended headings and under allocation be allocated as follows :**

- 1) **50K for upgrade and development of structures, facilities and community outreach via social enterprises of Ballyfermot Civic Centre**
- 2) **5K for environmental improvements on Walkinstown Ave.**
- 3) **4K to add to 5K available from Parks for Open Space improvements at Carrow Road/Kilworth Road**
- 4) **30K towards development and initial funding assistance for a Bus Pool and Share Programme facilitated by City Council and available to School and Community/Youth Groups**
- 5) **22K for Sports Engagement Initiative to be developed and piloted through Area Sports Officer and Community....funds to be used to support Football Intervention with targeted disadvantaged groups and related initiatives to build health, well being and engagement and youth leadership in Ballyfermot, Cherry Orchard, Bluebell and Walkinstown**
- 6) **€ 7K matching allocation for Policy Initiative on Crime and Anti Social behaviour. In the Event that this is funded through the LCDC then this money should be used to increase the Public Domain street wash programme.**

**Total recommended above €118 K**

Report Prepared by

Peter Finnegan Area Manager

Bruce Phillips Assistant Area Manager

Brian Lyons Discretionary Fund Project Officer

#### **Attachments**

**Initial proposed recommendations from Executive**

**Revised recommendations from Ballyfermot /Drimnagh**

**Revised recommendations from Crumlin/Kimmage**

**Memo from Parks on Desired Works**

CRUMLIN / KIMMAGE		
1	Dolphins Barn. Implement design	€30,000
2	Development of investment plan Housing/Homeless Dublin 8	€30,000
3	Crime	€7,500
4	Clonmacnoise/Bango/ Lismore/Durrow	€35,000
5	Dog Fouling and provision of Bins for Dog Foul	€20,000
6	Ceannt Fort Celebrations	€5,000
7	Playground Upgrade for the Liberty Flats	€60,000
8	Utility Box Art in the Community	€10,000
9	Upgrade Playground in Brickfield Park	€50,000
10	Library on Keeper Rd	€30,000
11	Crumlin Swimming Pool	€35,000
12	Crumlin Bowlin Club	€11,000
13	Donore Boxing Club	€20,000
14	St Catherine's Boxing Club	€2,500
15	Rialto Men's Shed	€22,000
16	Basin St/ CCTV and repair to roads	€44,000
17	Donore Community Drug Team	€2,500
18	St. Audeons Security	€5,000
19	Development of memorial garden to Fire Officers	
20	Poddle Close development	€15,000
21	Kilmainham lane Green Space/Illegal dumping	€10,000
22	Db12 Park Benches	€12,000
23	Lissadel Court fit Kitchen	€20,000
24	Hurling Wall Pearse Park	€20,000
25	painting and upgrade Galtymore Pk	€15,000
26	Camera Junction of Knocknarea/Benbulbin Rd	
27	Extra fencing at Bridgefoot Street	
28	Village signage	
Total		€511,500

BALLYFERMOT / DRIMNAGH		
	DCC Projects	Allocated
1	Cherry Orchard Tree Planting Project	€10,000.00
2	Bluebell ( Environmental Improvements to the Open Space at Shops)	€13,000.00
3	Community Facility Improvement The Bungalow	€12,000.00
4	Installation of railings at Bunting Park	€40,000.00
5	Vincent Street West (provision of improved public lighting from Luas Drimnagh Stop to Emmet Rd.)	€12,000
6	Inchicore Village Shopfront Improvement Schemes	€20,000.00
7	Kilmainham and Inchicore Environmental Improvement Scheme	€25,000.00
8	Strategic Feasibility Study for Lower Ballyfermot	€10,000
9	Cherry Orchard Its Ours project	€30,000.00
10	Lifestart project	€5,000.00
11	Cherry Orchard Working T'Awards	€3,000.00
12	Cherry Orchard Social Circus	€5,000.00
13	Slievebloom Park Road	€3,000.00
14	Bosco Youth Centre Repairs	€30,000.00
15	Ballyfermot Irish Language	€7,000.00
16	Inchicore Variety Club	€1,000.00
17	Ballyfermot Resource Centre	€20,000.00
18	Ballyfermot Sports Complex / Gurteen Youth Centre	€40,000.00
19	C/O Boxing/C/O Youth bus	€14,000.00
20	Labra Park	€10,000.00
21	Teanga Beo Baile	€10,000.00
22	Ballyfermot Star	€15,000.00
23	Diamond Twirlers	€500.00
24	C/O Irish Dancing	€2,500.00
25	Bluebell Youth Project	€1,500.00
26	Candle Community Trust	€25,000.00
27	Ballyfermot Youth Football	€7,000.00
28	Familibase	€15,000.00
29	Chapelizod	€5,000.00

	Public Domain	
	Urban Village Wash	€25,000.00
	Shops Wash	€15,000.00
	Pavement Proofing	€5,000.00
	Tree Planters	€15,000.00
	Dog Fouling	€5,000.00
	Dumping	€20,000.00
	Halloween	€5,000.00
	Utility Box Proofing	€6,000.00

**Total: €96,000**

Peter/Bruce, see below a list of works Sean Redmond has provided for works in South Central. We have €60,000 for each area in 2017. Is there any of the Cllrs discretionary monies going to any of these works? Les

<b>South Central Area</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Markievicz Park	Improvements for Greenflag 2017	€10,000	
Lansdowne Valley Park	Footpath Upgrade Investigate new entrance at Mourne Road	€25,000	
Willie Pearse Park	Hurling Wall	€50,000	
Liffey Valley Park	Upgrade of Entrance at East Timor	€20,000	Bridge route is an anti-social black-spot
Galtymore Park	Painting of railings and improvements to entrances/footpaths	€20,000	Requested at Brickfield/Galtymore Management Meeting
Open Space at Carrow Road; Kilworth Road	Footpath repair; footpath removal	€9,000	
Walkinstown Ave	Landscape works/ planting	€5,000	
<b>Sub total</b>			

Leslie Moore,  
City Parks Superintendent.

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## Report to Councillors on the Facts pertaining to the Crumlin Office

- 1) **City Council structures and services are not organised by Postcodes.** There are four postcodes within the Area , Dublin 8, Dublin 10, Dublin 12, and Dublin 20. In addition it should be noted that Bluebell is in Dublin 12 and has never related to or been supported by the office in Crumlin.
- 2) **City Council Structures are organised around local electoral boundaries.** Within the Administrative Area of South Central there are two Local Electoral Areas; **Ballyfermot/Drimnagh and Crumlin/Kimmage**. The primary office for Ballyfermot/Drimnagh is in Ballyfermot and the primary office for Crumlin/Kimmage is in the Liberties. From these offices a number of shared services support the entire Area.
- 3) **I have stated that it is not my intention to close the secondary office in Crumlin .**
- 4) **The Crumlin Office remains open** and provides the base for the Housing Manager, the Project Estate Officer, and the Sheltered Housing Liaison Officers/wardens. It also provides a base for the operation of the Social Worker Service and the Community Development Service. Staff attached to these services are not permanently based in the Crumlin Office. **The nature of their work does not require that they be based in this office.** In the case of the Social Worker the clinic is held on a specific morning and appointments are made. In the case of Community Development their work requires that they are out of office 80% of their time (on average) and engaged with local communities and initiatives.
- 5) **The Crumlin Office also provided a public counter interface with members of the Public.** The issues raised varied and included Housing maintenance, street lighting, rubbish and litter, dog poop bags, enquires about the housing waiting list, and general queries. These issues are logged on the CRM .

It should be noted that any contention that the public counter serves the entire population of Dublin 12 is not correct. Some Citizens from Drimnagh are served by Ballyfermot and Bluebell is entirely served by Ballyfermot. Because of the Crumlin Office's geographic location and transport connections the most significant number of callers to the Public Counter come from the immediate area of Crumlin itself.

**We cannot maintain this Public Counter service from this Office at present on a five day week basis.** The opening hours since October have been erratic. It has been also difficult for elected members and the public to get through by phone to this office. This is completely down to staffing issues. The fact is that when I came into this management role there were **four administrative staff in the Crumlin Office**. The current position is that from close of business on Friday March 3rd there was one administrative staff member. I cannot, from a health and safety perspective alone, have one administrative staff member as the only consistently present staff member in an office.

I was already concerned at the fact that we had two staff members only up to that point . I had sought to hire an external security/porter to ensure that there would always be two people on the premises but a member of staff referred this to the Union.

The staffing difficulties arose for a number of reasons. Firstly there were internal staff conflict/challenge issues that resulted in a member of staff requesting a move. A Staff member, at her request was moved out of the South Central Area, a replacement was sought but none was forthcoming. A second staff member retired. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> a third staff member went on maternity leave. Since I took Office no staff member has been re-deployed from Crumlin to Eblana until March 3<sup>rd</sup> when health and safety considerations made it imperative. We cannot operate the public counter with one staff member. To leave the one person in place in Crumlin would not be an efficient use of resource and would not fulfil my obligations under health and safety.

It should also be noted that erratic opening hours of a public counter serve neither the interests of City Council nor of citizens. **To maintain a public counter with full opening hours requires at least three and preferably four administrative staff in an office.** This allows for unplanned absence due to illness and planned absence due to holidays. We have requested critical vacancy recruitment/deployment to reach this staffing level in Crumlin. We have not been granted same.

It should also be noted that as of this week the staff member who was in Crumlin has been promoted to the position of Housing Advisor and will be reassigned. This in practise would mean that had she been left in the Crumlin Office it would have been for no more than a few weeks. If she is transferred out of South Central however it will result in yet another reduction in Staffing numbers in this Area.

**As of today (March 14<sup>th</sup> ) a invitation has been circulated to all staff under the management remit of the Deputy CEO seeking volunteers to fulfil administrative duties in Crumlin.**

6) **My responsibility is to the entire Area of Dublin South Central.** In that respect I have significant staffing and resource challenges.

Firstly the **Public Domain Team covers** the entire South Central Area and the staff complement here fell from four to one as a result of long term illness , staff transfers made by HR, and staff promotion. The Public Domain function is important and again I cannot have one staff member alone in delivering this function. The recent allocation of a Clerical Officer enabled me to provide a co-worker and administrative support to then Acting Public Domain Officer. It is my management position that this was a more critical need for the entire South Central Area than reinforcing the single administrative staff member in Crumlin.

7) The consolidation of the **Community Development** teams was necessitated by a reduction in staff and a reduction in team managers. It was our decision that having two teams in two base locations would allow for greater flexibility in service delivery, and enable the repositioning of the community development service. As stated above the nature of Community Development work requires that individuals work outside of the office for most of the working week. The location of their base station does not in any way reduce their availability to local groups. **The Crumlin Office remains open for use by Community**

**Development and can be an asset for local meetings.** I can confidently assure you that there has been no reduction in the activity or presence on the ground of Community Development staff since we consolidated the Community Development Teams.

We do face increased challenges in this area however with staff numbers and roles. The recent decision to move the only full time team leader, taken by the Deputy CEO, to fill the position of Grade 7 in Travellers will have implications for the continuing delivery of Community Development. Despite our application to fill this as a Critical Vacancy we are advised by the Deputy CEO that it is not a vacancy that can be filled as it is merely an internal move within the management line of the Deputy CEO. While we can create an Acting Grade 7 the net effect is that our Community Development Staff numbers are reduced again resulting in a net decrease of two full time staff. The staff complement is 8.5 staff so the reduction is almost 25%.

**So what have I done and what will I do in respect of Crumlin :**

- **I have provided that there will be administrative staff on site in Crumlin every Wednesday to facilitate the Social Work Clinic and to have the public counter open.** Phone calls pertaining to issues will be routed to Eblana and logged and handled from here. This provision however may not continue when the staff member promoted to Housing Advisor moves.

I will also revisit the issue of contracting a Security staff member to staff the entry/exit of the Crumlin Office. This would allow for the current clinics held there to happen and for people to access leaflet information and poop bags.

- I will , if I receive the staff sought for critical vacancies across all functions, allocate staff to the Crumlin Office. **In this regard my priority is to fill critical vacancies where the work by nature serves the entire Area and requires interface with the public and our services , beyond that of a fixed administrative base.** To make this clear and I am unapologetic about this my order of priority is to secure a full Public Domain Team, Secure a full Community Development team and only after this to allocate a full administrative team to the Crumlin Office.

Naturally if the invitation to staff to volunteer to work in Crumlin produces at least three individuals so inclined then they will be so assigned and Crumlin Public Counter will open on a full week basis.

In the event that only three staff are allocated, I believe it is necessary to engage a security presence.

- I will also begin a process to identify and measure the real need for continuing a public counter service in the Crumlin Office. Because this service was there is of itself no reason for maintaining it. The staff costs for four administrative staff exceed €185K . This is a considerable resource to tie up on effectively logging issues on the CRM which can be done from anywhere and dealing with

general counter queries. The front office staff do not resolve issues but rather act as the “post box” for forwarding issues. This results in the responsibility for ensuring that an issue is resolved and the citizen is provided with service being removed from the operational responsible department.

The continuing provision of a public counter and administrative staff in Crumlin can only be ultimately justified if the workload requires it. This would mean that if we do manage to reopen I would as Manager be obliged to undertake a work study to establish the volume, nature and priority of the work undertaken by Staff in this Office. This evidence based evaluation should inform future decisions on the viability of this Office.

- **We live in changing times , and are faced with a Public Sector where staff resources and finances are not as readily available as before. In this context there is a need for Dublin City Council to evaluate it’s service delivery functions, assess recruitment needs, and challenge existing structures and locations for service delivery.**

**In respect of the provision of a public counter for members of the Public it is possible that using technology to enable citizens interface with staff around issues, could help make better use of the limited staff resource available.**

**I will commission research and seek a proposal to open a Public Counter Interface Booth in Crumlin as a pilot which could be extended to other localities and operate from a variety of locations.** Such a facility could be made available in a community hall, residential complex, or indeed in a shopping centre. This facility would utilise technology to allow for face to face interactions between the public and staff.

**The proposal would identify options , identify costs and operational security , and identify a methodology for feedback to the citizen.** It is also feasible that such a facility could be made available through an App on a mobile phone or tablet.

The staff on duty for this interface would be based in Eblana. This would ensure that a public counter is provided in a five day 10am to 4pm basis for anyone wishing to call into Crumlin office while avoiding the need to have a significant staff resource tied up waiting on callers and handling phone calls for one local area alone. In fact this pilot could provide a solution to the staffing challenge for the future and release more staff from general administrative work.

**Peter Finnegan**

**Area Manager**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> 2017**