



**MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020**

1 **Minutes of the South East Area Committee meeting held on 9th November 2020**  
**Order: Noted.**

2 **Environment and Transportation Department Matters**

- i. Minutes of the Traffic Advisory Group Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.  
**Order. Noted.**
- ii. Report on Strand Road Cycle Trial.  
**Order. Noted.**

3 **Culture, Recreation and Emergency Services Department Matters**

- i. Report on removal of trees from Donnybrook Cemetery.  
**Order: Noted.**

4 **South East Area Office Matters**

- i. Report of the Director of Services, South City.  
**Order: Noted.**

5 **Motions**

**Motion 1 from Councillor Dermot Lacey**

This Committee requests a report from the Manager on the suggestions outlined in the below regarding the upgrade and increased potential for Sandymount Strand and Promenade including the establishing of an inter-disciplinary working group to consider options for improvements.

**Structure**

- There are five sets of steps leading down from the Promenade to the beach. There are a few metal handrails. At one side of each flight of steps there is a sloping ramp, which descends on the same gradient as the steps. The concrete of steps and ramps is mainly in poor condition. But most seriously, there is no visual indication of when the descent changes from steps to slope. In poor light, or for people not familiar with the area, this could be lethal. The concrete is the same colour on ramp as

on steps, and there are no marks indicating where the ramps begin. Anyone stepping unwarily onto a ramp would tumble down to the beach, or possibly even onto the rocks at the side. I would be amazed if this has not happened in the past. It could lead to serious injury, and to liability of the Council's part.

- Many years ago, the promenade was protected from the elements by the placing of thousands of tons of rocks on the seaward face. I think this has done its job, but over the years some smaller rocks have become displaced onto the beach itself. Many of these are partly buried in the sand, and constitute a hazard for unwary, elderly or poorly-sighted walkers on the beach. Within the last week we came across a couple in distress—the man had tripped on a protruding rock, fallen and injured his face, and was bleeding profusely.

### **Management**

- There are bye-laws affecting the Strand and Promenade, but they are not well presented or enforced. The most blatant danger is caused by cyclists (adult) who use the Promenade, which is for pedestrians only, as a cycle route. There are some faded inscriptions on the tarmac prohibiting cycling and skating, but they are few and far between, and they are not backed up by signage at the entrances to the Promenade. Once again, the danger and general loss of amenity to walkers is serious. Most cyclists, when challenged, flip the finger and pedal on. The forthcoming development of the Strand Road Cycle Route will give such people a civilised alternative, but as we all know there are unfortunately those who don't think in such terms.
- Dog fouling is a persistent problem on Promenade and Strand. There is some signage, but in the absence of enforcement it is easily ignored by owners.
- Both illegal cycling and illegal dog fouling could be discouraged if there was an occasional warden presence, backed up by enforcement.
- The rocks on the edge of the beach are alive with rats. I know this is not an easy problem to deal with, but could more effective deterrence be put in place?

There's nothing new about any of these concerns. The problems have existed for years if not decades. Would it be possible for the Council to put together a small inter-disciplinary working group, including perhaps some local representatives as well as officials, to consider options for improvement?

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

### **Motion 2 from Councillor Dermot Lacey**

This Committee requests the Manager to seek to have public lighting installed, perhaps in conjunction with CIE on the laneway running from Oaklands Park towards Sandymount DART Station.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

### **Motion 3 from Councillor Mannix Flynn**

That this committee of Dublin City Council call on the Temple Bar Company to promote a much needed municipal theatre and drama centre for the city and to that effect that they begin a dialogue with the present occupiers of the Smock Alley Theatre Complex with the view to creating this much needed municipal theatre complex that would come under the management and stewardship Dublin City Council.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

### **Motion 4 from Councillor Mannix Flynn**

That this committee of DCC call on City Council management, Dublin City

Council Housing section, and Dublin City council transport section to promote the use of cycling within Dublin City Council's flat complexes and social housing estates. That this campaign begin with having a full audit of how many vehicles are being parked in these estates and flats. How many of our tenants own these vehicles? How many of our tenants are cyclists? And what safe parking for cycling, if any, are in these flat complexes.

It is important that we educate the children and indeed encourage these children to cycle within the city and within their own flat complexes and area.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 5 from Councillor Mannix Flynn**

That this committee of DCC support the erection of a plaque to commemorate and honour the actions of Violet Gibson who shot Mussolini wounding him in 1926.

Born in Dalkey and raised in Merrion Square, Violet Gibson was a committed anti-fascist.

After Gibson's failed attempt, she was set upon by Mussolini's supporters, and would likely have been lynched had the police not stepped in and arrested her. She suffered various cruelties and indignities within the fascist prison system, and was then deported to England, sparing the Italians the embarrassment of a public trial. Her family had secretly arranged to have her committed to an asylum – St. Andrew's Hospital in Northampton, where Lucia Joyce, James Joyce's daughter, would later be committed.

Despite repeated pleas for her freedom, she spent the rest of her life in St. Andrew's, dying in 1956.

It suited both the British authorities and her family to have her seen as "insane" rather than as political.

It is now time to bring Violet Gibson into the public's eye and give her rightful place in the history of Irish women and in the rich history of the Irish nation and its people.

**Order: Agreed and refer to Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC.**

**Motion 6 from Councillor Mannix Flynn**

That this meeting of DCC call on Dublin City Council management to install an electrical vehicle charging point at the Mansion House for future use for the Lord Mayor's electric car.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 7 from Councillor Tara Deacy**

That this committee requests that the suburbs (areas outside the canals) are prioritised in the introduction of new innovative initiatives by DCC, Smart Dublin and DCC Beta. Initiatives such as Dublin Bikes, Smart areas, Bike Bunkers, Circle City Bins, Covid mobility and greening strategies focus on areas within the canal and many suburbs like Kimmage/Crumlin areas have not seen any signs of these initiatives. The recent news that Dublin 8 was selected as the next area to introduce Smart technologies only serves to highlight this inequality.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 8 from Councillor Tara Deacy**

That this committee support ask that the Crumlin/Kimmage be considered as the next location for segregated circle city bins that are currently being trailed in the city centre.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 9 from Councillors Mary Freehill, Tara Deacy, Deirdre Conroy, Pat Dunne, Carolyn Moore, Anne Feeney**

That the City Council takes back in charge the South side portion of Shamrock Villas, Harold's Cross.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 10 from Deirdre Conroy**

That this committee agrees that city council would set up an online meeting in December – this week - with Terenure - Rathdown Residents who have requested a meeting since September. Although I'm given a reason that Traffic staff are too busy in Covid to join the meeting, many councillors are also very busy trying to get their own work done on top of the quadruple amount of council work and meetings in Covid. Meetings have been held with other communities, including Crumlin and outdoor meeting in Sandymount Green and a walk in the area. This is simply an online meeting for residents to discuss, explain and receive feedback on what can be done to make the roads off Bushy Park safer.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 11 from Pat Dunne**

This Area Committee requests that our Public Domain Section engages in a public information campaign to discourage residents scattering waste food items for gulls and other such animals. The use of local leaflets and signage should be considered. This public information campaign should explain to residents the health and safety issues associated with this practice including attracting rodents and other such scavengers.

**Taken with motions 17 and 19. Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 12 from Councillor Danny Byrne**

That this area committee would communicate with construction / cement companies to ensure that the funnels on their trucks are properly fitted. There are have been many instances in recent months of trucks losing material in the Grand Canal Dock, Ringsend and Irishtown areas.



**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 13 from Councillor Danny Byrne**

That this area committee would write to Eircom asking them to replace or remove if not required the 2 phone boxes by the Library in Ringsend. These phone boxes are in a very poor condition and take away from the excellent work being done by the Ringsend & Irishtown Tidy Towns & Environment group to improve and maintain the aesthetics of Ringsend.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 14 from Councillor Danny Byrne**

That this area committee would formally write to each tidy towns group operating in the South East area thanking them for their tremendous work which is a brilliant asset in the community and a great assistance to the work of the council.

I refer to the following groups and any others groups or individuals in the South east area:

Ringsend and Irishtown Tidy Towns and Environment Group,  
Portobello & St. Kevin's Tidy Towns Association,  
Grand Canal Dock Community Clean -Up,  
Friends of the Grand Canal,  
Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association,  
Ranelagh Tidy Towns,  
Donnybrook Tidy Towns,  
Terenure Tidy Towns,  
Crumlin Community Clean-up,  
Beech Hill Residents' Environmental Committee,  
Dartmouth Square Environmental Group,  
George Reynolds Residents' Group - Friends of Green Spaces,  
Heskin Court Environment Group,  
Lansdowne Park Friends of Green Spaces,  
Northbrook Avenue Community Group,  
Oxford Court Environmental Group,  
Verschoyle Court Friends of Green Spaces.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 15 from Councillor Mary Freehill**

This committee requests that the Planning Enforcement Dept. reports on what steps can be taken in this planning enforcement case ref E0917/20. While the enforcement notice was only issued on 18th Nov I think the Dept. need to take account of the following issues:

Since these builders went on site earlier this year they have shown very little consideration for the residents of Fitzpatrick's Cottages. Hoarding was erected only feet away from their front doors and Health & Safety Regulations are not being practised. The following is an outline of the impact of actions by Anthony Neville Homes.

There are a number of ongoing issues with Anthony Neville Homes and the development at the Rosie O'Grady site that I would be grateful if you could raise with DCC.

DCC wrote to me in a letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> November regarding the hoarding which has been erected front of homes at Fitzpatrick Cottages. (Reference EO917/20) I note that DCC has initiated enforcement proceedings in accordance with Part VII of the Planning and Development Acts 2000.

There are a number of safety issues related to the hoarding that are posing ongoing risks and dangers to the community at Fitzpatrick Cottages that I would like to bring to your urgent attention.

1. There is a pedestrian entrance to the building site through a door in the hoarding which is situated approximately 2 metres in front of the houses in Fitzpatrick Cottages. Photos of door to the hoarding to follow.  
This door is left unlocked all day. Anyone could easily open the door and walk into the site. My 5 year old child opened the door last week and I had to stop him walking in. Are there any obligations on Anthony Neville Homes to provide that access is secured?  
Furthermore, the door in the hoarding opens **outwards** into the laneway at Fitzpatrick Cottages. Last week the door was opened by one of the workers as I was walking past and almost hit me. This is unacceptable from a health and safety point of view and poses a risk to residents.
2. The builders on the site do not wear masks and do not practice social distancing when working either on the building site or in their offices, adjacent to the Printing Depot in Harold's Cross. Workers enter and exit

the building site through the doorway in the hoarding at Fitzpatrick Cottages. Many of the residents of Fitzpatrick Cottages are elderly people. They have spent the last months in lockdown and isolation and it is completely unacceptable that workers, unmasked, are coming and going barely 2 metres from the front of their houses without consideration for their safety. It is unacceptable that the developers are allowing their employees to breach public health guidelines and posing a risk to the wider community.

3. Anthony Neville Homes knocked down a section of the wall in front of Fitzpatrick Cottages. The remaining section of wall has, not surprisingly started to crumble due to the ongoing works being carried out right beside it. I have photos and video footage of the work being carried out right beside the wall and can provide as necessary. Anthony Neville Homes have stated that they will not rebuild the remaining section of the wall. They have stated that they will 'make good' any damage to the wall. At the moment there is no timeline being advanced by the developers for this. Can you please advise if Anthony Neville Homes will be permitted by DCC to only partly rebuild the wall? It is due to their actions that the remaining wall is crumbling and it is no doubt being further damaged by the ongoing works. Photos of wall to follow.
4. On numerous occasions, the pedestrian entrance to Fitzpatrick Cottage was partially blocked by machinery and myself and my son had to walk through a narrow gap past a cement mixer to get out to school. Again, this is completely unacceptable from a health and safety point of view. Photos to follow.
5. The laneway up to Fitzpatrick Cottages is in a dreadful state of disrepair due to the volume of large vehicles accessing the road and is a health and safety hazard. Photos to follow.
6. Anthony Neville Homes carried out a condition survey prior to the start of the works. When I requested the photos of my property, I was first of all refused. When I complained I was sent a we-transfer file with photos of all the properties in Fitzpatrick Cottages and the format was only visible for 24 hours. When I asked for photos of my property only I was told this was not possible. This is yet another example of the obstructionist and unhelpful manner of the developers since the building works initiated.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

#### **Motion 16 from Councillor Mary Freehill**

That Ranelagh Gales be afforded playing times in Dartry Park. Furthermore that the Council accommodate this club by increasing playing facilities locally. Both Rathmines and Ranelagh have no publicly owned playing pitches and therefore the club needs to be accommodated in the wider area.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

#### **Motion 17 from Councillor Tara Deacy**

That this committee agree to support the implementation of a local campaign through DCC social media to address the increase in the disposal of food and other compostable waste in public areas that is unfortunately attracting seagulls and is also causing an increase in vermin in many of our local communities.

**Taken with motions 11 and 19. Order: Report to Councillor.**

#### **Motion 18 from Councillor Carolyn Moore**

That as part of the city council's efforts to provide more public toilets, the public toilet at the kiosk at 116B Orwell Road, Rathgar, would be urgently brought back into service, and that the area managers for the South East Area would seek to identify other existing public toilets not currently in use, provide this committee with information on the number of public toilets not currently in use and the

reasons they are not in use, and work to refurbish and bring them back into service as soon as possible.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 19 from Councillor Carolyn Moore**

That this committee will examine in more detail the need for a public awareness campaign around the dangers of dumping of food, including feasibility and costings for a leaflet drop in areas where this has been identified as an issue, and looking at options for signage that may include a treatment under the utility box scheme or involving local schools.

**Taken with motions 11 and 17. Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 20 from Lord Mayor Hazel Chu, Councillors Claire Byrne and Carolyn Moore**

That this Area Committee rejects the proposal for a 'fully glazed' Kripsy Kreme doughnut outlet in the Central Bank Plaza. A fast food chain such as this is not suitable for this location and consideration should be given to wider context of this iconic landmark building, the surrounding area and the plans to pedestrianise the locality.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**Motion 21 from Councillor Anne Feeney moved by Cllr. Lacey.**

To ask this committee to call on the Manager to replace the LED light bulbs on street lighting (with sodium or other effective bulbs) where the lights are obscured by trees. Over the last few years, street lighting bulbs have been replaced with LED light bulbs and while these are more cost efficient and more environmentally friendly, they are not effective where they are surrounded by overgrown trees, which are not being pruned to allow the light to shine through. This is causing a potential danger to pedestrians both in terms of potential trip hazards and crime at many locations where there are dark stretches of street and even if accidents or crime does not occur, people feel vulnerable and unsafe when they should not if the lighting was effective.

**Order: Report to Councillor.**

**6 Questions to the Chief Executive 14th December 2020**

**Order: Noted**

**Councillor Dermot Lacey**

**Chairperson**

**Monday 14 December 2020**

**Members:**

Dermot Lacey (Chairperson)

Claire Byrne

Deirdre Conroy

Kevin Donoghue

Mary Freehill

Carolyn Moore

**Members:**

Danny Byrne

Daniel Céitinn

Pat Dunne

James Geoghegan

Claire O'Connor

**Members:**

Hazel Chu

Tara Deacy

Mannix Flynn

Paddy McCartan

**Officers**

Brian Hanney

Jennifer Wall

John MacEvilly

Bernard Brady

Mary Taylor

Eoin Corrigan

Claire French  
Patricia Reidy

Brendan O'Brien

David Quearney

**Apologies:**

Anne Feeney

**Non-Members:**