

**Area Manager's Report
South Central Area Committee
Wednesday 18th October 2017**

Critical Changes in Planning legislation

Mary Conway briefed the Area Managers on changes in Planning legislation and process. The changes are summarized in a summary sheet circulated to Councillors. Mary will present the key changes and impact of same, (see attachment).

Policy Brief for Ballyfermot (proposed)

The Policy Brief for the proposed future land use study in Ballyfermot focused on the institutional lands in lower Ballyfermot will be circulated to councilors from this area by the end of this week.

Ballyfermot Urban regeneration

The Urban Village renewal plan for the Ballyfermot Village area has been discussed with the NTA in the light of their planned bus corridors which would go through this area. It is intended to proceed for the present with the pedestrian improvements in a Plaza context around the shops and a shopfront improvement initiative.

Ballyfermot Civic Centre

Issues pertaining to the Civic Centre are at a critical phase. The primary objective in the next three months is completion of the refurbishment of the Atrium. City Architects will co-ordinate this work and to speed up implementation we will do it ahead of the planned office changes on the third floor. In addition legal and management issues pertaining to the Centre are being addressed. Discussions with key stakeholders are ongoing within the context of the Plans outlined following the consultation process in the first six months of this year.

California Hills

This park continues to be a challenge in terms of anti-social behaviour. We have engaged the same urban designers who worked on Weaver Park with a view to seeing how some imaginative design work could address these issues. This is purely to develop a "disruptive concept" that might shake perception and thinking. The design submitted would be discussed with Parks and then a consultation process opened with residents and park users.

Liberties Enterprise Day

The Area Office hosted a Liberties Enterprise Day on 10th October in conjunction with Liberties Business Forum and Bank of Ireland (James Street). The event comprised an Investor Morning, a small business and enterprise fair, networking, advice clinics and community events. The Investor Morning brought approx 100 to the area to learn about ongoing investment at St James's Hospital, within our enterprise centres as well as investment being made by the City Council itself. The event received good press coverage and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the area, its businesses and community. More details on the event at www.libertiesdublin.ie.

I would like to commend the work of Stephen Coyne in organising this event and his ongoing work with business interests in the Area. The event helped focus on the importance of developing a Liberties brand focused on Well Being and Innovation and a number of small businesses/social enterprises focused on holistic healing, counselling and health were present. It is important that this Office provide a forum for those working in this sector, especially those dealing with suicide, and explore how we can better develop shared facilities to accommodate these services.

MOJO Project

The Area Office has contributed funding to support in partnership an initiative with Ballyfermot and the Canals partnerships to tackle issues of suicide among men.

St Thomas Abbey

St Thomas Abbey Pageant and Symposium is referenced in the report below. I would simply like to express my appreciation of the inter departmental and inter organisational collaboration that made the Symposium happen. I would also in particular pay tribute to the enthusiasm, dedication and voluntary creative work of the Community Team in designing swords, horses, and costumes for the pageant and working with the Gardai and Schools in making it a memorable occasion for the children, parents, and the bystanders along the parade route. The Office in Eblana saw late evening medieval costume making that would have outshone any Fashion House and weekend at home painting of shields and swords. What was particularly impressive on the day was the willingness of all staff within Eblana and from Ballyfermot to help shepherd the Pageant, march in Costume and record the event on social media.

Personal Note

You are aware that the CEO has decided to assign me to Housing and replace me with my colleague Vincent Norton.

I have a strong link with this Area going back to the beginning of my working life.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the commitment of staff within the Area and to record that I have been privileged to have worked with and learnt from them. Success in any organization depends not on any one person but on depends on the co-operation and teamwork of the many. In my brief period in this Area I am impressed and humbled by the initiative, creative energy, and teamwork of the staff in the Area.

I would also like to thank the elected members and acknowledge their work on behalf of and commitment to this Area. Our interaction as officials and elected members has been honest, transparent, robust at times and conducted I believe in a spirit of mutual respect. I wish to record again my belief in the importance of the elected members within the Government system both National and Local. It takes courage to stand for election. I believe that Officials should respect and co-operate with those elected who by virtue of election represent the views, concerns and hopes of the citizens we collectively serve. It has been my privilege to work with and for this Area Committee.

The communities that make up South Central are many and varied. The Area is in reality a network of villages and communities, and all need support and investment. I have had the opportunity of renewing old contacts and friendships at community level and of making new ones. The strength of any society lies in the connections and the strength of local communities. I would like to acknowledge the work of the many activists within the communities of South Central and assure them of my continuing personal support for that work.

There are many initiatives in the pipeline that have potential to improve the lives and the opportunities available for people in South Central. I would have liked to have had the opportunity to work on some, such as the area of Social/Community Enterprises and employment bridging programmes, that I have had previous experience of driving nationally. The New Childrens Hospital, while it may be disruptive locally in its building years, it will have a transformative effect on the entire Area . I want in particular to acknowledge the work and commitment of the residents, councilors, contractors, city council staff and NCHP staff who contribute to the Project Monitoring Committee and attempt to resolve the issues that affect and impact on residents. I have been particularly privileged to have been chosen by this group to act as the Chair /Facilitator of their monthly meetings.

No one is indispensable, and the work of staff and councillors will continue to ensure that South Central receives the services and investment that its communities deserve. The Area Structure within City Council performs an important advocacy role for the needs of Local Communities and I wish you all well in continuing in that role. I assure you of my continuing interest in and support for your role, regardless of what function I am assigned in City Council or beyond City Council.

CRUMLIN/KIMMAGE ELECTORAL AREA

South West Inner City Area Report

New Public Park, Cork Street

Works to develop a 0.6 hectare neighbourhood park on the site of the demolished Chamber Court flats on Cork Street commenced in February and are now complete with the park opening to the community on Friday, 8th September. The park was officially opened by the Lord Mayor on 2nd October.

St. Audeon's Park, High Street

St. Audeon'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. It is expected that work will commence shortly.

New Public Park, Bridgefoot Street/Island Street

Plans to develop a high quality neighbourhood park at Bridgefoot Street have been re-activated and public workshops were held on 20th April and 15th June in St. Catherine's Church, Thomas Street. Following agreement at the July Area Committee meeting a Part 8 planning application for the project was advertised on 28th July. A copy of the plan was available for inspection in the Planning Department in the Civic Office for 6 weeks from that date. A report in relation to the Part 8 application is included on the agenda for this month's Area Committee meeting. If the application is agreed construction works are likely to commence in 2018.

Oscar Park

Seating was installed last month as part of the central feature in Oscar Square, Dublin 8.

Crane Street/Sugar House Lane

Works, including the widening of the existing footpaths and the narrowing of the carriageway, to enhance pedestrian access along this important and busy tourist route commenced on 21st August and are progressing well. The expected completion date is late November/early December.

Dolphins Barn

A Public Realm Improvement Plan for Dolphins Barn is being finalized and will be presented at an upcoming Area Committee meeting with a view to proceeding with a part 8 planning application.

St. Luke's Church

Works in relation to the conservation and adaptive reuse of St. Luke's Church are ongoing. Dublin City Council is, at the same time, creating a small urban park in the north graveyard (facing St. Luke's Avenue) and carrying out improvements to the south graveyard (access

via Newmarket Square). Works to both graveyards commenced in June and are due to be completed in November/December whilst works to the church building are also expected to be completed at the same time.

James Street CBS

Works to install a 5-a-side all-weather football pitch (49.6m x 23.4m) in the grounds of James Street CBS are due to commence in November and should be completed by the end of this year. This facility will provide a much needed resource for the school, local sports clubs and the wider community. The pitch will be part funded from the 2016 Discretionary Fund.

Crumlin/Kimmage Area Report

Design work to upgrade the public domain of the east side of Crumlin Village from the junction with Windmill Road to St. Agnes Park, i.e. between an Post Sorting Office and the Garda Station is nearing completion and it is expected that tenders will be issued next month with a view to construction works commencing in the first quarter of 2018.

The works will include:

- The replacement of the existing footpath with cobble lock and slabs similar to the west side of the road
- The removal of the overhead electrical cables and replacement of existing lamp post with posts similar to those that were installed on the opposite footpath in 2008.
- Provision of an automated pedestrian crossing at the Crumlin Village/Windmill Road junction.
- Provision of cycle lanes and bicycle stands
- Additional tree planting
- Revised car parking

A presentation will be made at next month's Area Committee meeting.

Liberties Cultural Association:

This group will participate in a visit to the Arbour Hill National Memorial and UN Veterans Post in conjunction with other historical groups in the SCA led by local Historian in residence Cathy Scuffill 19th /Oct ,

Ceannt Fort Centenary Commemorations: New street nameplates are to be installed in the coming weeks. The community development team continues to support residents to develop this project: Ongoing

Growing without Soil: To raise awareness of the global loss of growing topsoil. This programme will run in local schools and afterschool groups and will demonstrate how to grow food without soil using a method of Hydroponics: Oct – Nov.

St. Thomas Abbey Pageant:

The local community and students from local schools & afterschool projects from the area took to the streets of the Liberties on Friday 13th October as part of a Community Medieval Pageant to commemorate St. Thomas the Martyr's Abbey .

Led by Medieval Knights on horseback, the children and musicians meandered through the streets from Marrowbone Lane to St. Catherine's Church, Meath Street, where a packed church was brought back in time by Historian Cathy Scuffill through story and medieval Chant music.

This event was the start of a weekend of events to celebrate the abbey, which also included a Medieval Symposium of St. Thomas the Martyr, which took Place on Saturday 14th October

in St. Catherine's Church, Thomas Street, which presented the most up-to-date research on the abbey from leading scholars and experts.

Halloween Activities & events:

Storytelling in St. Andrews:

Dublin City Council is sponsoring an evening of story telling and music to celebrate Halloween for older members of the community *too scary* for young children St. Andrews Community Centre: 26th Oct 7.30 pm.

BOTP Halloween Party: The Residents Association will hold a Halloween party in Flanagan's Field community garden: 31st Oct.

Halloween in Dublin 8: A series of Halloween parties in the many DCC flat complexes in the Dublin 8 area: 31st Oct

Young at Heart Dance – *Older Person's Dance* Tuesday 21st November 2017.

Dublin City Council Community Development Team are in the process of organising this years *Young at Heart Dance* which will take place in the Transport Club in Crumlin.

Admission is by Ticket only for further information contact :

Community Development Team – Eblana House.

St Martins Residents Association

Dublin City Council Community and Social Development Team continue to support the Association, and are liaising with various departments within Dublin City Council in relation to issues raised by the Association such as autumn environmental projects.

Durrow Lismore Green Space

Dublin City Council Community Development Team met with the a local community group and will support the group in organising a community clean and bulb planting day, which is currently scheduled for Saturday 11th November 2017 weather permitting.

BALLYFERMOT/DRIMNAGH ELECTORAL AREA

Community Grants

The closing date for Community Grant scheme for 2018 is October 27th. Groups who received a grant in 2017 will receive an application for the 2018 scheme. Posters and Application forms are being circulated to community groups and local Libraries. Application forms are available from www.dublincity.ie

Halloween

The Drimnagh Residents Group, a local drama group and St. John Bosco Youth Centre have been working with the City Council to organise a programme of events in Drimnagh on Oct. 31st (see attached poster).

This event is getting bigger and better every year and is creating a positive event in the area and providing a safer atmosphere for young people and residents in general. The Residents group particularly requested that a big event be held in Brickfield Park in the hope that it will deter bonfires and possible anti social behaviour.

The City Council has provided funding of €5000 towards this event and community staff will be present through out the day.

In Ballyfermot the City Council and Partnership working with the Youth Organisations have put together a Halloween festival group which will hold events throughout Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard on Oct. 31st. (see attached poster)

Traditionally the main event held over Halloween was fireworks in Cherry Orchard. This year events will take place in Markievz Park, Familibase and The equine centre with staff all 7 Youth Organisations working on the day together to create a safe alternative for young people.

The City Council has provided funding of €13,000 for this event. The Youth Organisation have little funding to contribute to the costs of the event but have used their programme costs to supplement activities over the Halloween period. It is hoped that the festival group will remain in place to develop a Halloween festival for Ballyfermot and with a view to securing additional funding sources for next year.

In Both Ballyfermot and Drimnagh there will be a large number of residents and community organisations volunteering to ensure both events run smoothly.

Drimnagh / Walkinstown

A new Tidy Towns committee has formed in Drimnagh. The group have carried out two community clean ups and are working with residents from Inchicore to organise a joint clean up of the canal. The City Council will support this group.

Ballyfermot celebrating 70 years

Representatives from local schools, community and youth organisations and the Ballyfermot community civic centre BCCC are putting together a calendar of events to mark the 70th anniversary of the Ballyfermot community.

Kilmainham / Inchicore

The Community Development Team is supporting the re establishment of a committee for Islandbridge Court and are working with the residents on Environmental Improvements for the complex.

We have been linking in with the Inchicore Environmental Group and are providing them with Spring Bulbs for planting around St Michaels.

Shop Front Improvement Scheme Inchicore Village, 65 units, 46 eligible, potentially 11, 8 applied, 6 received grant. €7.5k left, €12.5k in grants approved, total investment of €50k in shop fronts improvements

St Michael's Community Centre/Heineken/ Grow It Yourself - "Star Garden" Project underway at grounds of St Michael's Community Hall. 5th October 30+ Heineken employees volunteered to create a "star garden" on the grounds of the centre including raised beds, planters, hanging baskets containing vegetables, herbs and fruit. This will be followed up by "Grow It Yourself" gardening workshops

"A Sense of Place – Past Present Future – Kilmainham Inchicore" at Kilmainham Courthouse Two in series of five talks have taken place. Next one on the 24th October 2017 – Dr. Peter Rigney, History of CIE Works Inchicore. Autumn Talks covering local interest – Peter Keenahan (architect), , Prof Frank Barry (3rd Oct) (economist), Dr Peter Rigney (24th Oct) (Irish Railway Record Society), George Boyle (14th Nov) (Architect – Future Vision) Dr Frank Cullen 5th Dec (RIA, Historical Maps) Cathy Scuffil (DCC historian in residence is the Chair).

Improved Street Lighting Vincent St West €15k discretionary fund Completed. All new LED light bulbs emitting stronger light. Three lamp poles replaced plus one new lamp post installed.

Discretionary Fund 2017

Projects highlighted in Green are completed.

Projects highlighted in Orange are ongoing.

See comment box in relation to others.

Crumlin/South West Inner City Discretionary Fund

Ref	Project Title	Amount Allocated	Comments
33	Public Domain – Dog Fouling and Bins	€ 20,000	
34	Public Domain – Utility Community Box Art	€ 10,000	
35	Public Domain – Environmental Security St. Audeons School	€ 5,000	
36	Public Domain – Illegal Dumping and Kilmainham Lane Green Space	€ 10,000	
37	Public Domain – Dolphins Barn Public Realm Improvement Plan	€ 30,000	
38	Public Domain – Ceannt Fort Centenary	€ 5,000	Information panel to be provided
39	Park & Environmental Upgrades – D. 12 park Benches	€ 12,000	
40	Park & Environmental Upgrades – Memorial Garden Dolphins Barn Fire Station	€ 10,000	Works to take place end 2017
41	Park & Environmental Upgrades – Rialto Mens Shed	€ 22,000	
42	Park & Environmental Upgrades – Hurling Wall Pearse Park	€ 20,000	Plans to be costed/agreed
43	Park & Environmental Upgrades – Upgrade Playground Brickfield Park	€ 50,000	Works to take place beginning 2018
44	Park & Environmental Upgrades – Painting and Upgrade Galtymore Park	€ 15,000	
45	Park & Environmental Upgrades – Upgrade Playgrounds Liberties area	€ 60,000	Consultations ongoing - Works to take place in Marrowbone Lane/Poole St/Thomas Court Bawn late2017/early 2018.
46	Park & Environmental Upgrades – Upgrade to Open Space at Bangor/Clonmacnoise/Lismore/Durrow	€ 35,000	
47	Park & Environmental Upgrades – Lissadel Court Kitchen Upgrade	€ 20,000	Works to take place October 2017
48	Security and Safety – Basin Street & extended area CCTV Upgrade	€ 44,000	

49	Policy Initiatives – Integrated Plan to address Economic Development in Dublin 8 and Housing/Homeless Challenge	€ 30,000	Timeframe not available
50	Policy Initiatives - Tackling the Underlying Causes of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour in SWIC and Cherry Orchard	€ 7,500	Timeframe not available
51	Maintenance of Services – Crumlin Swimming Pool	€ 35,000	
52	CCTV at '4 roads'	€3,000	
53	Crumlin Childcare Centre	€25,000	Plans to be costed/agreed
54	Village signage	€17,000	
55	Village Wash Programme	€10,000	
56	Crumlin Swimming Pool Marketing & Promotion	€5,000	Timeframe not available
	TOTAL	€ 500,500	

Ballyfermot/ Drimnagh Discretionary Fund

Ref	Project Title	Amount Allocated	Comments
1	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements – Village Wash programme	€25,000	
2	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements – Shopping Precinct Wash Programme	€15,000	
3	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements – Pavement Proofing	€ 5,000	
4	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements – Three Tier Planters	€15,000	
5	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements – Dog Fouling	€ 5,000	
6	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements – Dumping	€20,000	
7	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Halloween	€ 5,000	
8	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Utility Community Box Art	€ 6,000	
9	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Cherry Orchard Tree Planting	€10,000	To take place in late Autumn
10	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Bluebell Environmental Improvements	€13,000	
11	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Chapelizod Environmental Improvements	€ 5,000	
12	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Kilmainham & Inchicore EIS	€25,000	Programme to be finalised shortly
13	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Inchicore Shopfront Improvement Scheme	€20,000	
14	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Cherry Orchard It's Ours Programme	€33,000	
15	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Slievebloom Park - Road Environmental Improvements	€ 3,000	
16	Public Domain & Environmental Improvements - Installation of railings at Bunting Park	€40,000	To take place at the end of the year
17	Infrastructure and Buildings - The Bungalow Improvements	€12,000	
18	Infrastructure and Buildings - Bosco Youth Centre	€30,000	
19	Infrastructure and Buildings - Ballyfermot Sports Centre/Gurteen Youth Centre	€40,000	

20	Infrastructure and Buildings - Teanga Beo Baile	€10,000	
21	Infrastructure and Buildings - St. Vincent Street West Lighting Upgrade (new lighting posts)	€15,000	
22	Infrastructure and Buildings - Provision of Radio/Music Centre at Bluebell Community Centre	€ 500	
23	Infrastructure and Buildings - Lifestart Project (Windows and Doors)	€ 7,000	
24	Infrastructure and Buildings - Labre Park (Portacabin)	€10,000	
25	Infrastructure and Buildings - Orchard Centre, special dance floor	€ 2,500	
26	Policy Initiatives - Land use Study on Institutional lands in Lower Ballyfermot	€10,000	Timeframe not available
27	Ballyfermot Resource Centre (replace guttering)	€33,000	Works to take place shortly
28	Ballyfermot Star (research into social enterprise cafe)	€15,000	
29	Boxing/Youth Bus	€14,000	Awaiting further details
30	Candle Community Trust	€25,000	
31	Familbase (Studio and Music Equipment)	€15,000	
32	Sports Engagement Initiative	€22,000	
	TOTAL	€506,000	

Changes in Planning Legislation

For your information, the following is a summary of the key changes in the legislation that relate to the elected members and the area committees.

The new legislation relates to housing developments of more than 100 units and student accommodation schemes with more than 200 bedspaces. For the next two to four years, planning applications for developments of this nature and scale will be determined by An Bord Pleanala.

In accordance with the new planning act, the Planning Authority will be required to submit a report from the Chief Executive on the application and provide a summary of points raised in third party submissions. This report has to be submitted within 8 weeks of lodgement of the planning application.

In addition, and of direct relevance to the area offices, the Planning Authority must within the 8 weeks:

- (i) notify the elected members of the making of the application, and the nature of the proposed development and invite the making of submissions/observations to An Bord Pleanala**
- (ii) inform the elected members at the next meeting of the relevant Area Committee of the following-**

- the details of the application**
- the consultations that have taken place in relation to the proposed development**
- the opinion of the Board on the pre-application consultation(s) and**

furthermore, where the meeting concerned takes place after the expiry of the 5 week submission period, the elected members must be provided with –

- a summary of the submissions received by An Bord Pleanala),**

- the views of the Chief Executive if there has been sufficient time for these views to have been informed.

Where the area committee is held, a summary of the views of the relevant elected members as expressed at the meeting must be forwarded to An Bord Pleanála.

As you can see from the above, there will need to be close liaison and co-operation between the Planning Department and the Area Offices to ensure the smooth operation of the new procedures especially given the tight time lines.