Area Manager's Report South Central Area Committee Wednesday 18th April 2018

Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

The Department has commenced engagement with relevant stakeholders to seek their views as to how the objectives of the National Strategy in relation to having greater female participation in politics and reviewing existing supports for female councillors including the issues related to maternity leave, might be achieved. The Department would be pleased to receive and consider any input from the members of the South Central Area Committee. (See attached correspondence dated 5th of April from the Department).

History on Your Doorstep

The City Council Historians in Residence have been working on a new project called *History on Your Doorstep;* outdoor, temporary panels containing local history information. These have been researched and written by Cathy Scuffil. The *History on Your Doorstep* project will be rolled out across the five areas of the city in mid-May. Each panel is bi-lingual and contains a couple of paragraphs of text and a few historic images. They are 2m x1.5m but can be altered by the designer to fit specific sites if needs be.

CRUMLIN/KIMMAGE ELECTORAL AREA

South West Inner City Area Report

Culture Date with Dublin 8

Culture Date with Dublin 8, the weekend-long celebration of the cultural and historical life of Dublin 8, returns to Kilmainham and Inchicore this year. The festival takes place on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th May, and will feature a host of free, family-friendly events. This year, the programme has been expanded with the announcement of two flagship events, and a series of pop-up events taking place throughout 2018.

Highlights of this year's Culture Date with Dublin 8's May line-up include:

- A family fun day with children's entertainment, historical re-enactments, puppetry, circus skills, poetry and more at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens Sunday, 20th May:
- An outdoor concert at the temple in Goldenbridge Cemetery Saturday, 19th May;
- Bespoke guided tours of Kilmainham Gaol, including a literary tour featuring women writers, and a family tour aimed at children between the ages of six and 12;
- Walking tours on the history of the Grand Canal and Goldenbridge by Pat Liddy sponsored by Waterways Ireland;
- Exclusive guided tours of IMMA's exhibitions, where you can see works by two of the greatest painters of the 20th-century Lucian Freud and Frank Bowling, and works by Irish artist Brian O'Doherty; free entry to landmark exhibitions all weekend; family workshop, activity packs and self-guided garden trails;
- A Genealogy workshop, musical, and dramatic tours of Richmond Barracks;
- Guided tours of the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park.
- Participating in National Drawing Day which is also taking place on Saturday 19th May, all venues will be encouraging the public to explore the theme 'Inspirational Settings in D8' through the course of the day.

The wider calendar of Culture Date with Dublin 8 events taking place throughout 2018 is set to be announced in the coming weeks, and will include tailor-made family tours of

Kilmainham Gaol; film screenings, free exhibitions entries and specially designed Culture Date with Dublin 8 route for Culture Night Friday, 21st September.

Further information can be found at www.culturedatewithdublin8.ie

Kilmainham Mill

The company which owned Kilmainham Mill entered receivership and the Chief Valuer made an offer to the Receiver in respect of the purchase by DCC of the property. The offer was not accepted and the Receiver has since sold the property to another party. The Chief Valuer is endeavouring to engage with the new owner but without success to date.

Court proceedings were recommended, under Section 63 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 -2016 (as amended) as the owners failed to comply with the Endangerment Notice that was issued. The file is currently with the Law Agent. However as the site is now sold, a new Endangerment Notice will be issued to these owners, this is currently in progress.

St. Audoen's Park, High Street

Works to enhance St. Audeon's Park by improving accessibility, permeability and circulation commenced in October 2017 and are due to be completed in April/May. The reconfigured western entrance will incorporate a play garden.

Bridgefoot Street Park

Detail design works are ongoing with view to issuing tender documents in Quarter 2 of this year. Construction works will commence shortly after the tendering process is complete.

Dolphins Barn

Following agreement at the January Area Committee meeting it is expected that a Part 8 Planning Application for a Public Realm Improvement Plan for Dolphins Barn will be advertised shortly.

St. Luke's Church

The conservation of St. Luke's Church is now complete with the building now being used as office accommodation. The City Council is 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 the near future. It is planned that the park facing St. Luke's Avenue will operate with normal park opening hours whilst the south graveyard can be visited by appointment. It is proposed that the park(s) will be officially opened in June/July when the planting has been properly established. It is also intended to initiate a 'green school' project with St. Brigid's NS.

Shopfront Improvement Scheme

A Shopfront Improvement Scheme for Dolphin's Barn and Rialto has been announced and is currently being advertised to businesses and property owners on the relevant streets. The scheme will support businesses with small grants to cover 50% of the cost of work to their front and is intended to support more attractive neighbourhood shopping areas along SCR. The Area Office is approaching eligible businesses directly and details of the scheme are also available online. The closing date for applications is 29th June 2018. The scheme is supported by the Discretionary Fund 2018.

Environmental Improvements at Christchurch Place and High Street

Work is expected to commence shortly on a number of environmental improvements at Christchurch Place and High Street as part of continued rollout of The Liberties Greening Strategy and Failte Ireland's 'Dubline' investment. A redesign of St Audoen's Park is currently underway and expected to be completed by the end of May. This will be complemented by a new green median to be developed on High Street, replacing the

existing hard surface in a similar manner to Nicholas Street, completed in 2016. In addition, Christ Church Cathedral will shortly embark on a 6 month revamp of the cathedral environs, improving access to the site for the estimated 300,000 visitors they receive each year. The small park opposite the Cathedral, Peace Park, is also undergoing a redesign which aims to reopen the park to use. These projects are all support funded by Failte Ireland.

Public Domain Report for SWIC

South Central Public Domain spent €10,000 in December 2017 on graffiti removal in market streets, lanes and south city access routes, which equates to aprox. 1,000 sq. meters of Graffiti removed from the public domain in the Liberties Area. The 2018 annual programme is currently being delivered with a focus on the high traffic tourist and market streets. Thomas Street has had an intensive gum and sticker removal from Cornmarket to St Catherine's Church. Cleaning will continue along this route to Inchicore over the coming weeks. A survey of all street furniture in the Liberties Area has been completed and a painting programme will commence as soon as resources allow. Decorative bollards, lighting columns & bins along Marrowbone lane, Cork St., Thomas St. and James St have been identified to benefit from the programme. A number of Small Projects have been identified for environmental enhancements e.g. Pimlico, The Coombe and Park Terrace. Public Domain is collaborating with The Liberties Dublin Business Area Improvement Initiative, Community Development, Parks and local residents to bring small easy to manage community spaces to life with imaginative and colorful planting. An Anti-Dumping Initiative is planned for the early Summer in the Liberties Area. This will be a highly co-ordinated and proactive approach to target pedestrian illegal dumping on street corners etc. Facebook

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https://twitter.com/dccscarea

Crumlin/Kimmage Area Report

Crumlin Village

Works 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 commenced on 5th March and are expected to be completed in late July. The works 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

Tenant Information and Support Service

The Dublin Simon Community has commenced a Tenant Information Clinic in the Crumlin Area Office. Tenants in private rented accommodation will be able to get advice on concerns they have in relation to:

- Losing their homes
- Rent Arrears
- Standards of rented accommodation

- Difficulties in managing their homes
- Housing rights

The clinic is operating from 9.30am – 12.30pm every Thursday. So far the uptake of the service has been a bit disappointing so referrals from Councilors would be very welcome.

Stannaway Court, Senior Citizens Complex

As previously advised works to insulate the units had been due to commence the week beginning 19th March. Unfortunately, when the contractor went on site he discovered that the gap in the cavity was not uniform throughout the complex and that that in some walls there was insufficient space to pump in the required insulation to make it effective. Housing Maintenance is currently examining the feasibility of external wall insulation and it is hoped a resolution can be found shortly.

CCTV in Benbulbin Road and Lissadel Road

Funding from the Discretionary Funds 2018 has been set aside for the installation of CCTV in these areas. Under the new General Data Protection Regulations it is a requirement to carry out Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) and consultation before such works are undertaken. We are currently awaiting a Garda report in relation to the anti-social behavior in Benbulbin Road area and this will feed into the PIA. Once the Garda report has been submitted the matter will be discussed further with DCC's Data Protection Officer and we will then undertake consultation with local stakeholders. Provided all goes well we would expect to have the camera installed within the next few months. We will then commence the same process for Lissadel Road.

Crumlin Area Office

I am pleased to inform you that an extra staff member was appointed to the Crumlin Area Office in late March. Additionally, 2 further staff members are due to be assigned to the office in the coming weeks.

Public Domain Report for Crumlin/Kimmage

The 2018 programme is currently being rolled out and the city graffiti removal scheme been extended to village shopping areas and high footfall pedestrian routes in the suburbs. An extensive graffiti removal schedule has been drawn up and to date aprox. 600sq meters of graffiti has been removed from Stanaway Road, Armagh Road, Herberton/ Rialto areas to name a few. The Suir Road Bridges and publicly visible routes from the Luas Line have been treated with anti-graffiti. Street Furniture survey has begun in the urban streets from Dolphins Barn and works will commence on a phased basis. This will be augmented by the Dublin Canvas Project. 10 Traffic Signal Boxes have been chosen for an Art Work. Public Domain met with the Sundrive Residents Group regarding illegal dumping of food waste and domestic waste at the half circle recycling bank and Green space. The Litter Prevention Office and Public Domain have been actively engaging with the group and a number of actions have been agreed in consultation with them. These include increased surveillance, Flyer to residents, possibility of deploying bird control kite and cleaning the site regularly. The Crumlin Road has been power washed and intensive cleaning will be scheduled once the public realm improvements are complete. Shopping Precinct cleaning and improvements will commence shortly. All will be subject to survey and budgetary resources. Team Dublin Clean up packs will be ready for distribution this week to the 15 groups registered. Facebook

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Community Report for Crumlin/Kimmage

Performance of the lost Céilí of the 1916 Rising

The Lost Ceili of the 1916 Rising is taking place on Friday 20th April at 11.30am in St. Catherine's Sports & Leisure Complex Marrowbone Lane

The Liberties Cultural Association with school children from the Liberties will give an opportunity to delve a little further into Irish History when they come together to perform "The Lost Ceili." At this event, witness statements from the Bureau of Military History will be read by a local historian. A live Ceili band will strike up a tune and the children will take to the dance floor to perform the lost Ceili of 1916 which sadly never materialised due to the surrender. This historic event will take place on the site of the old Marrowbone Lane Distillery which was occupied by the members of the 4th Battalion during the Easter Rising. Children and local people will step back in time with period costumes and artifacts. A lone piper will perform the music of Eamonn Ceannt and the very talented pupils from Francis Street CBS will sing songs of Irish Freedom. This event is a joint collaboration between Dublin City Council's Liberties Community Development team and Cathy Scuffil Historian in Residence

Community Choir Concert

Last Autumn as part of The National Neighbourhood Project local people over the age of 50 were invited to participate in a community Choir. The choir which takes place on Monday mornings at the MISA Creative Life Centre in St. James Hospital has become a very important social outlet for various people in the community including those who suffer from dementia. On May 14th at 2.30pm the members of the Choir will proudly present their first concert. This is a joint collaboration between DCC's Community Section, DCC's Culture Connects and The Creative Life Centre at St James.

Summer projects 2018

Summer project grant applications have been circulated to voluntary and non voluntary summer projects. Dublin City Council will continue work with Crosscare and Youth Services to support and encourage summer projects to plan this years programmes.

City Neighbourhood Competition 2018

Dublin City Council Community teams continue to support and promote /circulate applications for the City Neighbourhood Competition 2018 to community groups and organizations. The closing date for applications is 4.00pm Friday 11th May 2018. Send applications to: -

Dublin City Council, Waste Management, Division, 68/71 Marrowbone Lane, Dublin 8, or emailed to bernie.lillis@dublincity.ie

Maryland Grotto

The planting scheme is completed around the Grotto. Two benches are expected to be in place in the next week or so. A celebration by the residents will take place at the Grotto when work is completed in May.

Environmental Project School St Flats

The Community Gardeners from Oliver Bond will deliver a planting programme to the residents and children of School Street to encourage the planting and harvesting of vegetables in the raised flowerbeds in School Street flats.

Environmental Project Herberton

It is planned to start a planting programme in and around the F2 Centre with local groups and residents who use the centre.

Bird of Ireland Workshops

Dublin City Council Community team continues to organize and support a number of workshops on birds of Ireland in the schools around the SWIC/Crumlin Kimmage area. The most recent took place in Loretto Secondary school on Wednesday 11th April 2018.

The saving of the Liberties Common Swift Bird

The common swift is a city bird; their populations are in serious decline due to the level of demolition and new developments that are taking place in the city. Only by making space for swifts in our buildings can we ensure that they have a future in our cities The SWIC Community Development Team in conjunction with Style Dimensions in Marrowbone Lane have recently come up with an innovative design for Swift Nest Boxes. This box which has special features to deter predators such as magpies and gulls was highly recommended and acknowledged by world wide swift experts at the 5th International Swift Conservation Conference in Tel Aviv last month. Ten of these triple cavity nesting chambers now known as "The Liberties Swift Boxes" will be erected in suitable locations in the coming weeks in preparation for the Swifts return to their native sites. In addition to these external nest boxes, builders are also being encouraged to install internal swift bricks in ALL new developments.

St. Martin's Residents Association

Dublin City Council Community team met with members of the above association along with the Parks Department with a view to enhancing the area. Items which where discussed were replacement of trees and looking at ways to encourage biodiversity on the association's green space. The team will continue to support the association and liaise with departments in Dublin City Council on their behalf.

Adopt a Planter Project

Dublin City Council Community team are in the process of contacting various community groups in the Crumlin /Kim mage area to see if they would be interested in adopting a planter to enhance their area. When suitable locations are identified with interested groups /organisations and appropriate departments within the council give their approval on locations, groups will then be given their planter(s) and they will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of same.

Age Friendly Message in a bottle

The Lions Message in a Bottle scheme is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - the fridge. Whilst it is focused on the more vulnerable people in our community, anyone can have an accident at home, so this scheme can benefit anyone. On Thursday 26th April 2018 Dublin City Council's Age Friendly Unit will launch Message in a Bottle (MIB) in the Atrium, Civic Offices, Wood Quay. Students and volunteers from local schools have been invited to assist with the assembly of 10,000 units for distribution to vulnerable groups/and residents within our communities

BALLYFERMOT/DRIMNAGH ELECTORAL AREA

Cherry Orchard

In conjunction with Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership we shall be prioritizing a Community out of Hours Fund valued in region of €50k for the summer months for local organisations that are based in or target the citizens of Cherry Orchard to provide programmes and activities outside of the normal working hours during the week and weekends.

Stone Soup / DCC Parks / Cooperative Housing Ireland

Dublin City Council Parks Department has worked closely with both Cherry Orchard and Ballyfermot Area Managers to issue an agreement to Stone Soup Project to maintain a piece of a park, this will be developed into a community park and in turn begin a wider community programme involving the new residents of Co-operative Housing Ireland housing site when complete. Furthermore discussions are ongoing with Irish Prison Services and the use of their skill base in Wheatfield to provide fencing and other small structures as the programme continues.

Orchard Community Centre

The centre continues to go from strength to strength with weekly activities including After Schools, Reiki, Active Age Ballroom Dancing, Bingo, Foodbank, Boxing HSE Baby Massage, Taekwondo, Men Shed Music, IT Courses, Community Fitness and Basement Productions with their second play of the year taking place shortly.

Community Visuals and CCTV poles

In order to reduce the industrial look from the area, artists have been commissioned to give a weather theme to the 4 CCTV poles in the area. This will be followed by consultation in Barnville to enhance their estate by means of the discretionary fund.

Lord Mayor's recognition

Thursday 19th April will see the volunteers who assisted during Storm Emma being recognised by Dublin's Lord Mayor at a Civic Function in Mansion House at 7.30pm. All Councilors have been invited.

Cherry Orchard Co-Op Housing Development

The Co-Op Housing Development of 72 3 bed units is nearing completion with 40 units ready for letting late April and the balance of 32 ready in late May. Nominations are being forwarded to the Co-Op Housing team from DCC's waiting lists for selection and interview. The interview process by Co-Op Housing is commencing on Wednesday 18th April. The Ballyfermot Area Office is collaborating with Co-Op Housing to hold information sessions with the new residents at which MABS, Citizens Information, Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Partnership etc. will be in attendance. All successful candidates will be notified by Co-Op Housing.

The Rapid Build development of 53 2/3 bedroom units in Elmdale is progressing well and still on schedule for completion in November 2018. Expressions of interest for both developments are being collated in Ballyfermot Area office.

Several environment improvements are planned in conjunction with the community with additional tree planting and estate improvements in Barneville and Croftwood Gardens through the discretionary fund. Residents in Croftwood Gardens have requested planters to replace the barrier and work will commence there over the next two weeks. It is intended to plant miniature trees in the grass areas in front of each house in addition to street cleaning and small painting works.

A meeting with staff in the Equine Centre is scheduled for 25th April to discuss the logistics for the Equestrian Special Olympics scheduled for June 11th -14th.

Parks

Discussions are ongoing with Parks Section to agree improvement works through funding from the discretionary fund for the civic centre park, Spiddal Park and California Hills Park. A meeting with residents regarding California Hills Park continues to be a priority.

CCTV in the Older Persons complexes

The CCTV systems in the Older Persons complexes of Fr. Lemass Court, Rossaveal Court and Riverview Court have been upgraded and two of the systems can be monitored by An Garda Síochána. A meeting with the management of Longmeadows P&P has taken place and a CCTV company will be on site to inspect the system on Thursday 19th April. Further quotes are being sought for an upgrade of the CCTV system in the Ballyfermot Civic Centre with a view to extending it to cover the nearby park. It has been agreed to replace the DVR so that the existing cameras can be inspected with a view to replace some and upgrade others.

Businesses

Efforts continue to be made to encourage the businesses to come together in a Forum to work collaboratively with DCC and a meeting is being arranged for 10th May in conjunction with the Planning Department as a follow on from the meeting held on 11th January. Items for discussion include public domain issues, shop front improvements and lighting.

Public Domain Report for Ballyfermot/Drimnagh

Graffiti has been removed from Sarsfield, Ballyfermot, Chapelizod, Bluebell and Walkinstown. 13 bins have been repainted at the Ballyfermot/Colepark shopping precinct and the Bollards will be painted over the coming weeks. A survey of all street furniture Ballyfermot roads has been completed and the painting programme will be extended in due course. The intensive wash & gum removal has been scheduled fro late April/ early May. The shopping precincts included the Gum Removal scheme are: Ballyfermot/Colepark; Ballyfermot/ Le Fanu and Claddagh Green. Four new Three Tier planters for the Ballyfermot/ Kylemore Roundabout have been ordered and will be in place by the beginning of June. The planters will be in place for 2018 to mark the 70th Anniversary. 13 Traffic Signal Boxes have been identified for treatment under The Dublin Canvas Project. The Team Dublin Clean is proudly being supported by Public Domain and the Litter Prevention Office and so far 19 groups have signed up to participate in the Day of action on Saturday 21st April 2018. Reminders will be sent to all participating groups. All updates will be posted thanks to our local media feed. The City Neighbourhoods Application forms are available from Eblana House or by emailing southcentralpublicdomain@dublincity.ie

Grattan Crescent to Sarsfield Road was tagged extensively 21st March and 200sq meters of graffiti were removed within 24 hrs from a number of locations. Thanks to all the residents for contacting Public Domain so promptly in all 20 complaints were received in relation to this. The Kilmainham Inchicore Network is to be congratulated for their vigilance in keeping this Historical Area looking its best.

Facebook

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https://twitter.com/dccscarea

Community Report

Plant Sales

The annual plant sales will be taking place in the following locations: -

Date	Location	Time
	Our Lady's Hall, Drimnagh	10am
	St. Laurence's Grove, Chapelizod	6pm
	Walkinstown Community Association	7pm
9	Markievicz Park	6pm
17 th May 2018	Ballyfermot Library	6pm
	Cherry Orchard Centre	6pm
17 th May 2018	Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre	6pm

The Ballyfermot Environmental Group, Drimnagh Men's Club, Chapelizod Tidy Towns and Walkinstown Residents Association are supporting the local sales.

Watch out for the brightly painted bicycles the Ballyfermot Environmental Group and Local Men's Shed will be placing along Ballyfermot Road this month.

The 24 Planter Boxes along Ballyfermot Road are being replanted by the Ballyfermot Environment project, supported by the City Council and the Fusion Project.

Older People

The Bealtaine Festival promotes greater participation by older people in society. The name "Bealtaine" comes from the ancient Celtic festival of that name celebrating springtime, freshness and renewal. Dublin City Council and Claddagh Court Senior Citizens are hosting a One Women Show performance "Beezie" on Wednesday May 2nd at 2:00PM. The community team in conjunction with the WALK group has organised an Intergenerational coffee morning on May 17th in the green Kitchen at 10:00AM with pupils from Drimnagh Castle Primary School and elderly members from Walk. There will be a story teller and refreshments.

Father Lemass Court

Dublin City Council has arranged an environmental Workshop with Fiann O Nualláin in Father Lemass Court. The talk will be on planting and maintaining balcony gardens. The community team has brought together the Ballyfermot Men's shed and the Father Lemass Court residents to work on a project to enhance the appearance of the senior citizens complex.

La Touche Court Meals Service

A questionnaire has been compiled to assess the wants and needs of older people regarding Meals on Wheels in the Bluebell area. The questionnaire will be conducted and distributed to all our senior citizen complexes, our community centre and the surrounding areas. The results of the questionnaire will be presented at a public meeting to be held in La Touche Court on Wednesday 16th May.

Summer Projects

Dublin City Council in conjunction with Crosscare has circulated summer project applications to potential projects this year. Closing date for applications is 27th April 2018. Dublin City Council Community & Social Development Section continues to fund all voluntary Summer Projects in conjunction with Crosscare. Funding is also available to Youth Organisations who meet the criteria and wish to organise Summer Projects in 2018.

Community health and well being

Dublin City Council are supporting the month long national Green Ribbon Campaign to encourage people in Ireland to end mental health stigma this May. We have organised 5 free talks in the Ballyfermot and Walkinstown libraries. Angela Amirault will do a talk on positive mental health called "Let's Get Talking"

	Time	Library
10 th May 2018	6.30pm	Ballyfermot
	6.00pm	Walkinstown
	10.30am	Ballyfermot
	10.30am	Ballyfermot
31 st May 2018	1.00pm	Walkinstown

The City Council is working with local organisations to organise a programme of events that will be held throughout the month. A Coffee Morning will be held in the Ballyfermot

Community Civic Centre on Wednesday May 9^{th.} At 11:00AM. A keynote speaker to launch the event has yet to be identified.

The Council is working to organise a Mental Health talk and target the local Men's groups. Fiann O Nuallain, the Holistic gardener will host this event.

Community Festivals

The City Council is working with the following organisations to host Community Festivals and Family Fun Days:

The Cherry Orchard Summer Fair Committee, the Chapelizod Festival Committee, Walkinstown Green Family Fun Day, Ballyfermot Youth Services, Crinniu Na N'Oige and the newly established Drimnagh Festival Committee.















South Central Area Committee Meeting 18th April 2018

Iveagh Markets

Update:

The City Council has obtained temporary possession of the Iveagh Markets for the purposes of conducting a dilapidation survey to determine the condition of the building and to identify the necessary works required to prevent the building from falling into a further state of decay. Howley Hayes Conservation Architects have been appointed to conduct the survey which will take approximately 4 weeks to complete.

Executive Manager Date: 348



South Central Area Committee Meeting 18th April 2018

With further reference to the proposed disposal of a site at the corner of Dolphin's Barn Street (33/37) and South Circular Rd, Dublin 8 to Malkey Ltd.

Update:

The Law Agent was instructed in December 2017 to commence the process for the termination of the Agreement for Lease and Building Licence Agreement in this matter and the developer's Solicitors were notified of this. The developer's Solicitors have responded to the Law Agent's letter and this is currently being examined.

Paul Clegg	
Executive Manager	Date: 16/04/18

South Central Area Office, Eblana House, Floor 1, Marrowbone Lane, Dublin 8 Oifig Cheantar An Lárdheiscirt, Teach Eblana, Urlár 1, Lána Mhuire Mhaith, Baile Átha Cliath 8 T 2225246/8 F 4531088 email: southcentral@dublincity.ie

22nd February, 2018.

Minister Eoghan Murphy T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Government, Custom House, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1.

Re: Motion 570 from Councillor Hazel de Nortúin

Dear Minister Murphy,

The following Motion was agreed at the February 21st Meeting of the South Central Area Committee of Dublin City Council and the Members requested that a letter be forwarded to you on this matter.

Motion 570 from Councillor Hazel de Nortúin

This Council notes the 100th anniversary of granting (some) women the vote as a result of their heroic struggle for the suffrage.

It also notes how little progress has been made as regards women's participation in politics since the days when Countess Markievicz was the first woman elected to the British Parliament.

This Council recognises that the barriers to women's political participation are both ideological and material - particularly with no maternity or childcare support.

This Area Committee therefore supports the call for an urgent programme of action to counteract this blatant inequality and a solution to the practice of deducting pay for absence from Council meetings as a result of pregnancy, and connected health issues or child care emergencies.

Order: Agreed

I would be obliged for your comments on the issue and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Norton Area Manager South Central Area



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Oifig an Aire Office of the Minister

5 April 2018

Mr. Vincent Norton, Dublin City Council, South Central Area Office, 1st Floor, Eblana House, Marrowbone Lane, Dublin 8.



RE: Motion 570 from Councillor Hazel de Nortúin

Please Quote Ref: REP524/EM/18

Dear Mr Norton,

Thank you for your letter of 28 February, 2018 regarding Motion 570 (from Councillor Hazel de Nortúln) which arose from a meeting of the South Central Area Committee of Dublin City Council.

On the issue of absences from Council meetings, I would in the first instance draw your attention to the following general provision and policy currently in place for councillors:

- Section 18(4) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, provides that
 councillors may be absent from meetings of a local authority for up to 6 months,
 either on health grounds or for another reason in good faith, and retain their seats
 subject to a resolution of the elected members of the Council. This period may be
 extended to 12 months, upon the passing of a resolution by the elected members of
 the Council, and to 18 months, again upon the passing of a resolution by the
 Council.
- Councillors receive a representational payment of €16,891 per annum to support them in carrying out their reserved functions. A councillor who is absent for a period of up to 6 months is entitled to continue to receive the full amount of the representational payment for so long as he or she continues to be a member of their local authority. Councillors who are absent for a period exceeding 6 months may continue to receive 50% of the representational payment for the next succeeding 6 months. No further payments are made for uninterrupted absences that exceed 1 year in duration.

An Roinn Tithlochta, Pleandia, Pobali agus Rialtais Áltúil, Teach an Chustaim, Balle Átho Cliath DO1 W6X0
Deportment of Housing, Planning. Community and Local Government, Custom House, Dublin DO1 W6X0
Teil/fel: 353 1 888 2000 Falca/Fox: 353 1 878 8640
Riomhphost/e-Mait: ministei@housing.gov.le

www.filhiocht.gov.ie www.housing.gov.ie

Páípéar 100% Alhchúrsáilte Prinled on 100% recycled paper Notwithstanding this existing position in relation to general absences, and acknowledging this Department's responsibility under the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020 to work for greater female representation in politics, this Department is currently reviewing existing supports for female councillors, including in relation to maternity leave.

In that regard, I would also draw your attention to *Objective Four: Advance Women in Leadership* of the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020, published in April 2017 by the Minister for Justice and Equality, which includes a commitment that "action will be taken to increase the participation of women in local government..." A specific action (4.5) therein states the following:

"In line with the Action Programme for Effective Local Government 'Putting People First' (Chapter 11.8), work with local authorities, the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and political parties to promote and assist women candidates. Investigate potential supports to promote the participation of women in the 2019 local government elections".

This action, assigned to this Department, involves advancing undertakings given in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government 'Putting People First which centre on working to create an environment that is more favourable for women both to enter local politics and to serve once elected.

The Department has commenced engagement with relevant stakeholders to seek their views as to how the objectives of the National Strategy might be achieved. In that regard, the Department's Local Government Oversight and Governance Section would be pleased to receive and consider the input of the South Central Area Committee and/or of Councillor de Nortúin.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond Private Secretary