Question to the Chief Executive

South East Area Committee Meeting 8th October 2018

Q.1 <u>Councillor Dermot Lacey</u>

To ask the manager if she will reply directly to the person referred to in the correspondence submitted with this question who suffered a serious injury after falling on Estate Avenue, Merrion, Dublin 4 and arrange for the necessary repairs works to be carried out as a matter of urgency.

Q.2 <u>Councillor Dermot Lacey</u>

To ask the manager if there are any plans to upgrade the surface of the astro turf pitch at Herbert Park that is now 12 years old and I am told quite dangerous.

Q.3 <u>Councillor Dermot Lacey</u>

To ask the manager if she could arrange for the relevant decision making officials to meet with the resident at (details supplied) to once and for all see how this issue can be resolved.

Q.4 <u>Councillor Dermot Lacey</u>

This committee requests the manager to provide a full report on any information that Dublin City Council has on plans to develop the Metrolink that would require the demolition of the College Gate Apartments and the Markievicz gym and swimming pool and to further discuss how this committee can work to save these apartments and amenities.

Q.5 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to deal with the following issue from a constituent on Sussex Road:

Nothing has been done with regard to this matter, and last week I contacted the council about broken car window glass that is on Sussex Road. They promised that they would send a van out to sweep up the offending greenish coloured glass, but as of this morning 3rd September, that glass was still there and the so called proper sweep and clean up of rubbish never happened since early July.

Now you will probably say, oh this rubbish is only after appearing after the GAA match yesterday, this is not so, the offending rubbish has actually faded over the last few weeks due to non collection in rubbish bag.

I am appalled that the area is only swept every 12 weeks, this needs to be reviewed and a sweep done every four weeks or else the day after a major event is held in the area e.g. a rugby match or concert in Aviva or RDS.

Q.6 <u>Councillor Paddy McCartan</u>

To ask the manager to deal with the following issue from a constituent:

As a pedestrian I have been walking down from Ranelagh via Appian Way into Leeson Street and Burlington Road areas. I have emailed to Dublin Corporation in relation to this matter, a while back, but nothing seems to have been done to give the place a thorough cleaning.

There are no rubbish bins in the area near businesses like Amazon / Burlington Plaza, where a number of buses either terminate their journeys or else begin their new journey north side.

As a result of no bins being provided, people are just dumping their coffee cups either at the edge of footpath or else on the railings of various buildings along the route towards the Grand Canal.

Could you please look into this matter, as it has dragged on for far too long?

Q.7 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to deal with the following issue re street lighting on Orchard Lane, Ranelagh from a constituent. He notes, "In the lane way it's very dark and with the onset of winter looming and following past experience of encountering dubious characters in the lane at night, I would have serious concerns with regard to public safety along this lane".

Q.8 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to deal with the following issue: to have a bench repainted on the Merrion Road beside the bus stop adjacent to Ailesbury Road.

Q.9 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to have the trees trimmed outside number 13 Merlyn Road, Ballsbridge. They are overshadowing the garden and house.

Q.10 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to deal with the following issues on Merlyn Park Ballsbridge:

- a) Broken street light adjacent to number 20 needs to be fixed.
- b) All historic lampposts need to be repainted and restored to their former resplendence.
- c) Broken pavements caused by roots of trees. This issue has been very successfully addressed in Nutley Park and Ailesbury Park by tarmacking the surrounds of the trees. Could the manager indicate when similar work be done in Merlyn Park Ballsbridge?

Q.11 <u>Councillor Paddy McCartan</u>

To ask the manager to give me an update on flood prevention measures in Merlyn Park, Ballsbridge. Would it be possible and is it necessary to provide extra drains on Ailesbury Road at the entrance to Merlyn Park? This would ensure that houses on Merlyn Park are suitably protected from flooding.

Q.12 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to give a completion date in relation to the Dodder Flood Alleviation works.

Could we have an indication of all outstanding issues to bring the project to termination up to Anglesey Bridge Donnybrook?

How much has been spent on the project to date?

When these works are completed, what steps will be taken to inform the various insurance companies who will then hopefully pass on reduced insurance premiums to house holders in Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Sandymount areas?

Q.13 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager issue a full report and updates regarding any progress on the refurbishment of the Peace Garden at Christchurch? This report to include all consultations, if any, that took place with local residents and businesses with regards the installation of the Flanders Memorial.

Q.14 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the area manager have the public domain officer and street furniture section investigate the ongoing street drinking, noise and street furniture obstructions that are taking place in Dame Lane east and west?

Many people are complaining that they can no longer walk or cycle through these areas because of on street drinking and placing of barrels, tables and chairs in the roadway and in the laneways. Also, there is proliferation of loud noise from the music from these premises. The premises in question are the Mercantile Hotel, the Stag's Head, The Dame Tavern and the Berlin Bar.

Q.15 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the area manager issue a directive regarding the collection of Xmas Trees at the Milltown Carpark?

Further, can the area manager issue a report as to what noise reduction measures are being considered for the bottle bank and bring centre in the car park itself?

I reported this some time back and to date nothing has happened and more and more people are driving into this car park and simply dumping their bottles or pouring them out of cardboard boxes into the containers. Many residents in the area have been complaining about the noise for a long time. Is there any possibility that this bottle bank can be relocated to a less built up area.

Q.16 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager investigate the ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour at Glovers Court and York Street? Groups of youths at this location are constantly haranguing and attacking both residents and passers-by with fireworks, and other objects such as golf balls, potatoes, etc.

Recently a member of staff on a nearby building site was injured when golf balls were flung deliberately at him from youths within the Glovers Court area. Many residents here feel very intimidated and are left in a helpless state. Recently an attempt was made to burn and set fire to the children's play area.

Can the manger issue a full report with regards the effectiveness of the CCTV cameras and also what measures have estate managers taken in the area to deal with this issue? This issue has been ongoing for a number of years.

Q.17 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the area manager initiate a full examination from the conservation architects of Dublin City Council of Werburgh Street Church?

This church is a highly protected structure; it is a national monument of significant importance. The church is now closed as a result of a major plaster fall within the church. Also, stone and masonry is falling from the front of the church as well as the railings and the steps are now in such a serious dilapidated state that water is pouring into the basements and this important structure is being neglected and in possible danger of irreparable damage being caused.

It is time now for a full examination of this protected structure and the guardians of this protected structure should be made aware of their obligations.

Q.18 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager give me an update please on the motion that was passed some months back regarding a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on a premises on Aungier Street which is in a serious state of decline and is impacting on everything either side of it including the iconic Swan Bar. This report to include a full breakdown of the CPO process and its initiation.

Q.19 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the area manager issue a full report with regards the allegations of unlawful clamping within the South East Area over the past number of years? This report to include all reporting to Dublin City Council (DCC) of any individual who felt that they were illegally or wrongfully clamped.

What efforts if any the CEO of DCC has taken to investigate these matters. A full breakdown of all motor cars that were clamped in the South East Area over the past two years.

Q.20 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the area manager examine the possibility of extinguishing the public right of way that exists between the new Clarion Hotel at the Grand Canal? This right of way cuts in between the residents' dwellings and the hotel and there are grave concerns from local residents that this is going to give rise to anti-social behaviour and also leave their properties vulnerable to break-ins.

Q.21 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager contact Deliveroo and JustEat and other bicycle delivery services informing them of the rules of the road and calling on them not to use the footpaths or continuously to cycle down one way streets recklessly?

Many of these delivery services are whizzing around the town in a reckless fashion, they don't abide by any laws, are constantly on their phones or sat-navs to find the locations while cycling and are a danger to themselves and to the road users and footpath users alike. These firms have a responsibility to ensure that their staff are behaving in a proper manner while on the job and to respect the rules of the road.

Q.22 Councillor Chris Andrews

Can the manager arrange to have all the floorboards replaced which have been damaged by flooding and all necessary works to be carried out as a matter of urgency so that *details supplied can have the walk in shower installed as she has had approval for?

Q.23 Councillor Chris Andrews

Will the manager arrange for the installation of buzzers on the gates in Mercer House similar to the ones in Bishop Street because the current system means that family get locked out and the gates are heavy and they can swing closed on young or old hands and can cause serious injury?

Q.24 Councillor Chris Andrews

Will the manager outline what arrangements Dublin City Council has put in place to facilitate coach parking from the junction of Parse Street / Hanover Street East and the junction of Hanover Street East and Erne Street Lower and give a commitment that coach parking will not be allowed on the side of the road where Pearse House flats are, as the coaches are running and the fumes are unpleasant when residents have their windows open and also the coach passengers can look into the flats and

light is blocked when they are so close to the flats and also it is hazardous to have coaches impeding the view of residents when trying to cross the road.

Q.25 Councillor Chris Andrews

Can the manager arrange to have the heating restored to *details supplied and also can the manager arrange to repair the shower which is leaking and it's starting to come through the wall into the sitting room.

Q.26 Councillor Chris Andrews

Can the manager arrange for the trees on Mount Drummond Avenue to be cut back as they are currently overhanging and posing a danger to residents both in terms of falling leaves, and their encroachment on the street lights?

Q.27 Councillor Chris Andrews

Can the manager give assurances to residents that the leaves on Mount Drummond Avenue will be picked up as there have been complaints recently of this not occurring.

Q.28 Councillor Chris Andrews

Can the manager arrange to have a big belly solar bin installed at the entrance to Sean Moore Park opposite Marine Drive in Sandymount, as the bin there is continuously overflowing and attracts dumping around it?

Q.29 <u>Councillor Ruairí McGinley</u>

To ask the manager to prune trees at details supplied as public lights have been totally blacked out by trees with resulting darkness for residents.

Q.30 <u>Councillor Ruairí McGinley</u>

To ask manager to advise of feasibility of electric gates for Grove Road flats following on some recent incidents details supplied.

Grove Road Flats on the canal near Harold's Cross. We have had a serious problem with outsiders dumping rubbish which up to now has been annoying and very costly for the council to dispose of.

Last weekend this issue could have resulted in the council having re-house us all. Someone dumped wood beside the block which ended up on fire, see attached photos. This is very worrying. There are a number of babies in the flats too. So fire is a serious worry. Grenfell has increased the worry of flat tenants everywhere.

We need electric gates that only residents can operate for safety reasons. The preventing of fly-tipping would save the council a lot of money which would more than justify the cost. We have had kitchens, beds, floors, serious rubbish, even a transit full of builder's rubble dumped in our complex.

An additional problem is someone in the area is selling cars and is recommending test drives in our car park resulting in our back car park, which is the only area the children have to play in, being used for some very bad driving by outsiders testing cars. It is only a matter of time until a child is seriously injured by an outsider.

Q.31 Councillor Anne Feeney

To ask the manager to investigate the possibility of putting traffic / parking bollards (flexible or permanent) on the edge of the footpath on either side of the entrance to St. Louis High School in Rathmines. Currently cars park up on either side of the entrance (regardless of the double yellow lines) and across the road at drop-off and school pick-up times. This presents a real safety issue on a narrow stretch of road,

particularly given the numbers of students entering and exiting and going between cars and not being seen by passing traffic or by the drivers of parked cars when they are parking or moving off.

Q.32 Councillor Anne Feeney

To ask the manager to investigate the possibility of putting a pedestrian crossing on Kimmage Road Lower near to junction with Aideen Avenue to facilitate many older people and children emerging from Aideen Avenue, Corrib Road and this densely populated area to cross the road safely to catch buses into town and to schools.

Q.33 Councillor Anne Feeney

To ask the manager to investigate the legality and environmental safety issues of a commercial enterprise operating from *details supplied. There is no name or contact details on this commercial business but it appears to be a car bodyworks operation, possibly operating without license and with little or no safety standards being adhered to in relation to toxic fumes emerging and polluting the residential houses backing onto the lane.

Q.34 Councillor Anne Feeney

To ask the manager to arrange for the railings alongside the river in Poddle Park to be repainted.

Q.35 <u>Councillor Anne Feeney</u>

To ask the manager to carry out an audit on the status of trees along the footpaths and in the green area in Laverna Grove. Many of these trees are top heavy and need to be pruned; some are dead and need to be removed and the trees nearest to the junction with Terenure Road West are so overgrown they completely surround / block out the light from a number of public street lights.

Q.36 Councillor Claire Byrne

To ask the area manager how many bike parking stands have been installed in the Pembroke South Dock Ward since 2014, can she provide the exact locations of these bike parking stands, and can she provide information on further installation plans and locations of bike parking stands in the area?

Q.37 <u>Councillor Claire Byrne</u>

To ask the Area Manager who is responsible for the lifting of the pavements at the top of Grafton Street (in between the Disney Shop and the ice cream shop) why was this replaced with plain uneven cement which is unsightly and a trip hazard, are there plans to replace this with the same paving as the rest of the street, and if so when will this work be completed?

Q.38 <u>Councillor Claire Byrne</u>

To ask the area manager what financial supports are in place to assist in implementing an environmental improvement plan such as planting, and a community garden and a mural.

Q.39 Councillor Claire Byrne

To ask the area manager can she please install a yellow box at the junction of Curzon Street and the South Circular Road to assist drivers accessing the South Circular Road in a safe manner?

Q.40 <u>Councillor Claire Byrne</u>

To ask the area manager can she please prune the trees on Synge Street? The trees are overgrown and are causing problems for pedestrians.

Q.41 Councillor Claire Byrne

To ask the area manager for an update on the installation a four way pedestrian crossing at the junction of Harrington Street, Heytesbury Street and the South Circular Road.

Q.42 <u>Councillor Claire Byrne</u>

To ask the area manager can she please provide a list of all the planning permissions granted for short term rental properties in the South East Inner City in the last three years.

Q.43 Councillor Patrick Costello

To ask the manager for an update on Motion 18 from the September meeting.

Q.44 Councillor Patrick Costello

To ask the manager to facilitate a follow up onsite meeting in Mount Argus Park, there are still significant concerns from the local residents and these are best dealt with by meeting on site.

Q.45 Councillor Patrick Costello

To ask the manager to improve the security of Grove Road flats, there are issues of persistent dumping and people using the common areas to test drive cars that need to be addressed by management.

Q.46 Councillor Patrick Costello

To ask the manager to provide an update on the derelict site at details supplied.

Q.47 <u>Councillor Patrick Costello</u>

To ask the manager to provide an update on the derelict site at details supplied.

Q.48 Councillor Patrick Costello

To ask the manager for an update on the roll out of the neighbourhood traffic schemes.

Q.49 Councillor Patrick Costello

To ask the Area Manager how many bike parking stands have been installed in the Rathgar Rathmines Ward since 2014, broken down by year, and to provide the exact locations of these bike parking stands, and can she provide information on further installation plans and locations of bike parking stands in the area.

Q.50 Councillor Chris Andrews

Can the manager arrange to have the leak and damage in details supplied repaired?

Q.51 <u>Councillor Frank Kennedy</u>

I have previously raised questions over the property at *details supplied, the most recent of which was Question 87 at the Dublin City Council meeting in February 2018 [attached / details supplied]. Many problems persist at this property. Specifically:

- (a) The house is still open to the elements;
- (b) Japanese knotweed is re-growing untreated;
- (c) Rubbish is now being dumped again in garden and basement [see photo attached];
- (d) The building is a protected structure and therefore restoration will need planning permission. It is unknown whether this has been applied for;
- (e) Anti-social behaviour is rife, e.g. people are drinking on the steps of the property.

To ask the manager to take the necessary steps to address these problems immediately.

Q.52 Councillor Frank Kennedy

To ask the manager to install additional lighting on the laneway from Ashton's Pub to Brookvale Road as there are sections of it which are, at present, pitch dark and it is extremely dangerous to cycle through here in the dark. For instance, there are pointed railings on the side and a fall could be very serious. If better lit, more pedestrians and cyclists would use this lane.

Q.53 Councillor Frank Kennedy

At the July meeting of the South East Area Committee (SEAC) I asked the following question and received the response which follows:

"Q.13 Councillor Frank Kennedy

I asked the following question, and received the response which follows it, at the June 2017 SEAC:

Q.80 <u>Councillor Frank Kennedy</u>

To ask the manager to repair, as a matter of urgency, the footpaths outside Margaretholme Sheltered Housing, Claremont Road, Dublin 4. The footpaths are in a dreadful state and the residents of Margaretholme are elderly, vulnerable and in many cases are of limited mobility.

<u>Reply:</u>

Arrangements will be made to carry out repairs at this location.

Contact:

Madeline McNamara, Executive Engineer, Road Maintenance Services Division, tel.: 222 2722, email: <u>madeline.mcnamara@dublincity</u>.ie

The residents of Margaretholme advise that the footpaths on Claremont Road, Tritonville Road, Herbert Road, and Sandymount Road remain in poor condition. To ask the manager the following:

- a) To state what repairs have been carried out outside Margaretholme Sheltered Housing, Claremont Road, Dublin 4 in the period since June 2017;
- b) To identify the total number of repairs which are currently logged as required to be carried out to the footpaths on Claremont Road, Tritonville Road, Herbert Road, and Sandymount Road on Road Maintenance's records;
- c) To state what repairs have been carried on Claremont Road, Tritonville Road, Herbert Road, and Sandymount Road since June 2017; and
- d) To carry out repairs to the footpaths on these roads, and especially outside Margaretholme, as a matter of urgency.

Reply:

Road Maintenance Services' Asset Management System was interrogated to provide the following data:

a) Number of repairs recorded outside Margaretholme Sheltered Housing, Claremont Road in time period June 2017- June 2018: 0

- b) Number of service requests currently outstanding on: Claremont Road: 6 Tritonville Road: 6 Herbert Road: 4 Sandymount Road: 6
- c) Repairs carried out in time period June 2017- June 2018: Claremont Road: 0 Tritonville Road: 1 Herbert Road: 5 Sandymount Road: 2
- d) These service requests will be inspected and repairs scheduled when a crew is available."

These repairs have <u>still</u> not taken place. To ask the manager to effect these repairs immediately.

Q.54 Councillor Frank Kennedy

In light of the enormously serious housing emergency outlined in [details supplied] to ask the manager to recognise this most acute of situations, to take into account and prioritise this family in the allocation of accommodation and, at the very least to restore them to the position they were at on the City Council housing list when they came off it circa five years ago. In particular, it is seriously inequitable that, because they were forced to go to Cloughjordan, they lost their place on the Dublin Housing list.

Q.55 Councillor Frank Kennedy

At the city council meeting on 11th June 2018, I asked the following question and received the response which followed thereafter:

"Q.34 COUNCILLOR FRANK KENNEDY

- **SEA** To ask the Chief Executive as at present construction work takes place on the site of the old Central Bank residents and local businesses advise that there do not appear to be warning signs warning the public of the heavy construction traffic; i.e.:
 - None for the pedestrians walking up Crown Alley and crossing Cope Street;
 - None for the pedestrians walking up and down Fownes Street;
 - None for the pedestrians on Dame Street where a tarmacadam entrance has been created for large construction traffic to enter the site off Dame Street;
 - No signs for cyclists to warn them of the dangers;
 - No signs for the heavy construction trucks entering the area warning them of the myriad cyclists and pedestrians likely to appear out in front of them; and
 - Local residents and businesses report that since July 2017 no warning signs of the kind identified in the bullet points above have been erected. They further query whether on site safety signs are displayed on the entrance gates.

On grounds of public safety to ask the Chief Executive to ensure that adequate signage is erected at this locus as a matter of urgency.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council Roadwork's Control Unit contacted the main contractor responsible for Central Plaza Development and advised him of local business & residents concerns regarding inadequate warning signage on surrounding streets, to alert pedestrians & cyclists of construction traffic. The contractor agreed to review his Traffic Management & Logistics Plan and to install additional warning signage where necessary. Roadwork's Control Unit will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that safety concerns are satisfactorily addressed.

The signs referred to in the reply to Q.34 now need replacement as most are missing from the original sites where they were erected. To ask the Manager to ensure that these signs are replaced. [It should be noted that when they first went up everyone's attention was drawn to the dangers of what was going on and the signs were most welcome and appreciated.]"

Q.56 Councillor Frank Kennedy

At the July meeting of the South East Area Committee (SEAC) I asked the following question and received the response which follows:

"Q.34 Councillor Frank Kennedy

In light of the increased number of concerts taking place in the Donnybrook / Ballsbridge area, in particular at Donnybrook Stadium / Energia Park and at the RDS, and the fact that many local residents have been discommoded by the noise levels, to ask the Manager:

- (a) What controls are in place to ensure these performances do not disturb local residents?
- (b) Are officials from Dublin City Council on site to ensure no excessive noise levels?
- (c) What is the maximum permitted decibel level?; and
- (d) Who monitors the decibel levels?

<u>Reply:</u>

- a) There are no legal mandatory limits on noise levels for outdoor events in Ireland. The UK Pop Code is adapted as the benchmark for such events by Dublin City Council. The UK Pop Code is used extensively by local authorities in Ireland and the UK as the industry standard for such events and sound engineers with touring music artists would be familiar with the measures required to comply with this code. Environmental Health Officers in the Air Quality Monitoring and Noise Control Unit of Dublin City Council are authorised to serve Statutory Notices under S. 107 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 to prevent or limit noise at concert events. Notices are generally served on the promoter and on the occupier of the venue. These notices set out maximum levels permitted in the vicinity of concert venues. The Event Licence also obliges the event organisers to appoint an independent noise consultant to carry out monitoring and to issue a report to Dublin City Council. In practice Dublin City Council staff liaise with the noise consultant during the event, and if required the sound desk can be contacted to make adjustments to acoustic management of the event.
- b) Environmental Health Officers generally carry out onsite monitoring at concerts and communicate with the independent noise consultant, and if necessary with sound engineers at the mixing desk to notify of possible breaches and to ensure compliance with the noise levels.

- c) The Pop Code states a maximum LAeq limit of 75dBA(15mins.) shall not be exceeded at the environs of the venue and this level was set out in the Statutory Notice.
- d) As stated above, noise monitoring is carried by Environmental Health Officers and the independent noise consultant.

In light of the above response, to ask the Manager:

- (a) To furnish copies of each of the reports issued by the independent noise consultants to Dublin City Council in respect of <u>each open air concert</u> which took place at the RDS in June 2018; and
- (b) What phone number, if any, can residents telephone at the weekend to complain if noise levels are too high at concerts at the RDS.?"

Q.57 Councillor Frank Kennedy

With regard to the unkempt state of the Leeson Street, Sussex Road and Burlington Road areas, to ask the manager:

- (a) How frequently are the footpaths and sides of the road swept on each of these thoroughfares;
- (b) In light of the appalling state of the general area at present to conduct a proper and thorough sweep and clean without delay;
- (c) To have regard to, in particular, and to remove the vast quantity of bottles & used coffee cups left up on railings & thrown into the bushes in the area from the corner adjoining the Clayton Hotel (previously known as Burlington Hotel) right down around to the junction of Mespil Road where the Mespil Hotel is;
- (d) To install rubbish bins along the route mentioned at (c) above, especially at the set down area for buses/pickup of passengers near Connacht House for the disposal of rubbish when people are getting on or off buses; and
- (e) To identify whom precisely should residents contact when it is necessary to notify the council that an urgent sweep is required.