

Director of Services Report
South Central Area Committee Meeting
19th February 2020

SOUTH WEST INNER CITY ELECTORAL AREA

Active Public Realm Projects

Marrowbone Lane: Work is now complete on the new landscaped area. The new public space includes trees, seasonal planting, seating and cycle parking. The scheme was designed by Parks and Landscaping Services and delivered by Cairn Construction.

Francis Street Environmental Improvement Scheme: Utility works by Irish Water are ongoing at Francis Street and will be completed in early March. The main paving works will commence in April.

Bridgefoot Street: Carriageway resurfacing of the street was completed in January. The issue of improved cycling facilities on the street was referred to the Sustainable Mobility Section who aim to revert back at the end of February. The central median of Bridgefoot Street is proposed for landscaping as part of the upcoming Bridgefoot Street Park project.

Bridgefoot Street Park: Some enabling works at Bridgefoot Street took place in January and the substantive works on the provision of new recreational amenities are now underway.

St James's Graveyard: Landscaping works to complete the ongoing programme to conserve and restore this historic burial ground are expected to begin shortly. The ambition is to open the refurbished and accessible graveyard to the public as a new amenity and attraction.

Poole Street Playground: New play equipment and other refurbishments have been made by Housing Services to the small playground at Poole Street. The adjoining ball play area has also had repairs and is open daily for community use.

Reuben Street: 6 no. tree pits with trees and underplanting will be developed on Reuben Street and Haroldville Avenue in the coming weeks. The works have been agreed with local residents.

Economic Development

SmartD8: The Area Office, together with Digital Hub and other local partners is establishing a Smart Dublin testbed area for Dublin 8 called 'SmartD8'. An initial 2 year programme is proposed which will be led by a dedicated project manager working with the Smart Dublin team to develop a project supporting digital innovation, healthcare and wellbeing here in Dublin 8. The programme is expected to formally launch in April.

Shopfront Improvement Scheme 2020: the Area Office's successful Shopfront Improvement Scheme has been launched for its 6th year. The scheme applies to the full SWIC area, combining the previous Liberties and Kilmainham-Inchicore schemes. The scheme assist business with small grants to support the refurbishment of their shopfronts and building fronts. Details are available at www.dublincity.ie

Culture Date with Dublin 8

The fourth annual 'Culture Date with Dublin 8' will take place on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May 2020. The festival highlights the postal district of Dublin 8 as one of Ireland's top cultural destinations. Last year's 'Culture Date with Dublin 8' saw a series of over 30 free and specially curated events across top historical landmarks including Kilmainham gaol, St. Patrick's Cathedral and IMMA – Irish Museum of Modern Art. The festival aimed to encourage people who are living and working in or visiting the area to discover hidden attractions in the Dublin 8 area. The 2020 programme of events will be announced in the coming weeks. Further details are available on the website www.culturedatewithdublin8.ie and on Facebook.

Love D8 – Community Fair 29th February 2020

This event returns to the Liberties, hosted this year in St. Catherine's Church Thomas Street. This is a collaborative event by Dublin City Council, The Liberties Dublin and St. Patrick's Cathedral. It provides a wonderful opportunity to all who live, work, study or visit the area to experience what is happening in Dublin 8. Last year over 100 groups/organisations made connections which have built lasting relations and connections for their respective groups/organisations. The event which will be showcasing both community and business organisations of Dublin 8 and celebrating what they do in the area. Pop performances and talks as well as a series of Talks and Holistic treatments, along with many other activities will be available on the day. Closing date for registrations is 19th February 2020.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020 - “The Lost Céilí” 6th March & 12th March 2020

Pupils from St. Catherine's National School, Donore Avenue and Scoil Treasa Naofa, have been researching their local Irish History and will come together and perform “The Lost Céilí” on the 6th March 2020 in Donore Avenue Youth and Community Centre. On the 12th March the Lost Céilí will also be re-enacted in The Parochial Hall, James Street. Dublin 8 by boys and girls from James Street N.S. and Francis Street CBS. At these events, witness statements from the Bureau of Military History will be read by a local historian and pupils from each school. A live Céilí Band will strike up a tune and the children will take to the dance floor to perform the lost Céilí of 1916 which sadly never materialised due to the surrender. The pupils and their teachers have embraced this project with enthusiasm as the excitement builds by the week within the schools as part of the Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020. Musicians from Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann will be performing music on both days. This event is a joint collaboration between the Community Development team and Cathy Scuffil Historian in Residence and local schools mentioned above.

Lá le Prátaí: 17th March St. Patrick’s Day

Dublin City Council Community Development Team is delighted to support the Back of the Pipes Resident Association who will host an event in Flanagan's Field Community Garden to celebrate and plant the “1st potatoes of 2020” celebrating Lá le Prátaí. This fun annual event is well attended by the wider community of Dolphins Barn and Rialto. The event will take place between 14.00 and 16:30.

International Women’s Day

On the 10th of March 2020, the renowned Neuroscientist and Psychologist Professor Sabina Brennan will discuss Brain Health at the Inchicore College of Further Education to celebrate international Women’s day. She will also discuss her book “100 days to a younger brain”. There will be a Questions and Answers session after with light refreshments.

The Liberties Cultural Association is running a weekend of events to mark this year’s international Women’s Day. On Saturday 7th March people are invited to join local historian Liz Gillis on a guided historical walk throughout the Liberties. On Sunday 8th March there will be a series of lectures in celebration of the many great Women who came from the area. This event will take place in the Little Flower Centre on Meath Street.

Bridgefoot Street Environmental project

Four box planters are now in place and have been adopted by a resident’s group in the area. This is the start of a small environmental project whereby residents and young people will now maintain these planters which they have adopted. The planters have been welcomed locally and we hope the project will continue to grow.

Kilmainham Mill

The tender for the construction team to carry out the emergency stabilisation works has now been issued. A grant application for €200,000 to the Heritage Council of Ireland under the

“Historic Towns Initiative” was submitted on the 7th February. A grant application for €200,000 to the Department of Heritage under the “Historic Structures Fund” was submitted on the 14th February. The work on the grant application for the Fáilte Ireland “Platforms for Growth” Programme continues.

Kilmainham / Inchicore: Joint Workshop

The report and analysis of outcomes from the KIN (Kilmainham Inchicore Network) and the IRCF (Inchicore Regeneration Consultative Forum) workshop held on the 18th of January is currently underway. The report will outline the communities views on the proposed development to supplement the Development Framework Plan for the proposed Council development at Emmet Road.

Kilmainham / Inchicore: Building a Sustainable Community

Dr. Nolan will present his findings and recommendations to the CF/KIN on the 19th February 2020. This Report, commissioned by Department of Housing Planning and Local Government, on behalf of Minister for State Damien English, T.D. has been published and available at:

https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/scoping_exercise_inchicore_kilmainham_report1.pdf

Kilmainham / Inchicore: Strategic Planning

For IRCF (Inchicore Regeneration Consultative Forum), this includes information sharing on achievements and learning from other proposed Cost-Rental developments, explanations of the proposed cost rental financial model and benefits to recipients of cost rental housing. An assessment of needs on community facilities; evidence based statistical analysis will be carried out. Engagement with the appointed integrated design team in terms of public community consultations will be ongoing throughout the year. The IRCF Education subcommittee is working on a plan of action for 2020, including thematic information sessions and reviewing recommendations from the Jack Nolan Report.

Kilmainham / Inchicore: Tree Planting / Public Domain

The Tree planting initiative module of sustainable gardening took place on Sunday 16th February in Bulfin Court with over 50 participants. The Day was a resounding success and over 165 trees from future forests will be growing in South Central’s urban forest come spring. Sorbus, Hawthorn, Elderflower and Birch are fantastic city trees that can be used in a hedgerow or as stand- alone specimens. Environmentalists from Inchicore and Drimnagh were among the participants on the day.

Environmental Improvements / Public Domain

The bollards along Thomas Street have been painted. The pedestrian railing at the Bridgefoot St. junction has also been painted, with railings at Dolphins Barn/Crumlin Rd. Junction for treatment next. A clean-up of the linear park and Brandon Terrace adjacent to NCH was completed by the Probation Services crew, further collaborations will ensue.

Graffiti has been removed/overpainted at Thomas St., High St., Cornmarket, Lamb /Marks Alley, Back/Hanover/Steevens Lane, John Dillon St., Hanover-Arch, Francis St, James St & Walk, Cork St., Blackhorse and Heuston Station. Abandoned bicycles have been tagged at Heuston Station for removal. The South East and South Central are sharing resources to address the many abandoned bicycles across the city.

Bruce Phillips,
Area Manager
South West Inner City Local Electoral Area.

BALLYFERMOT/DRIMNAGH ELECTORAL AREA

Cornamona Court Site

The most recent derogation order was on 4th February. No further derogation orders have been sought.

3.8. Acre Site at Sarsfield Road

The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for the 28th February at which plans and drawings for the site will be discussed based on the recent consultation meetings with the residents.

De La Salle Site

No further update on the development of this site.

Chapelizod/Springvale Site

A High Court injunction is to be sought to halt works that had begun on the site since the 2nd January. The case is due to be heard this week. A residents group is asking the courts to quash the October decision of the Council to approve the development.

Kylemore Park

A very well attended meeting took place on 21st January at which the layout and content of the Park was discussed along with issues of anti-social behaviour. Staff from Familibase and the Restorative Community Development Officer attended the meeting and gave a briefing on their possible role around engaging with the youths and the residents to try to mitigate some of the issues in the Park. Further site visits by Parks Services will take place to try to incorporate changes to the upgrade as raised by residents. The next meeting in Ballyfermot Library is scheduled for March 10th at 6.30pm.

Park West/Cherry Orchard LAP

The first 'area implementation team' meeting was held on Thursday 13th February. This was an internal meeting to bring all relevant Departments together to discuss the contents of the Plan, issues that may arise and to formulate an action plan. There will be scheduled meetings held going forward and the membership of this team will be reviewed as the need arises.

Ballyfermot Civic Centre

Meetings are ongoing with the Centre Management and occupiers around the refurbishment works, licenses, upgrade of the theatre space, fire safety etc.

Ballyfermot Civic Park

The next public meeting to discuss the proposals for the Park will be held on 11th March at 6.30pm in the Ballyfermot Civic Centre. A presentation will be made by Parks Services to show what the park will look like when all the ideas put forward at the last consultation are taken on board. The issue around the laneway at Cleggan Road has been forwarded to the National Transport Authority for further review.

Le Fanu Skate Park

The expected completion of the skate park is on schedule for the spring.

Ballyfermot Sports and Leisure Centre

The upgrade of the pitches is completed and are now re-open for use.

Bluebell Park

The footpaths in the Park, which were damaged by tree roots, have been overlaid with tarmac and at gateways. All overgrown grass at pathways has been removed.

Lissadell Maisonettes

The vacant maisonettes at Lissadell Road have been put back on the framework for refurbishing and will be re-let upon completion.

Crumlin Road/Rafters Lane site

Our Architects Department are currently working on procurement documents for a design team for the project. They hope to appoint a design team in Quarter 2 of this year.

Bluebell Community Council Vision Document

Bluebell Community Council are about to bring their vision document to print for circulation. A working group with the Housing Regeneration Section is being set up and will meet regularly to discuss progress on the regeneration of Bluebell.

Cherry Orchard Development

Basement Productions Drama Group

This was our 3rd Panto in the Centre and as in previous years, it proved very popular with all the young children who attended. Approximately 400 people came to the Panto in the last number of weeks.

DCC Culture Company

This DCC initiative brings together staff and local people to learn about local communities and talk to them about what makes life interesting for them. Two of our user groups met with Culture Company in January/February to chat about what they do in the Centre. Our Ballroom/Sequence Dance group met to talk about their interest in dancing and how it affects their lives and our Men's Music Shed group met to talk about how their group affects their lives. Both groups enjoyed meeting with DCC Culture Company and telling their stories. Their stories will now be recorded and made part of an overall picture of everyday life in Dublin.

Men's Shed – Cherry Orchard

The RTE programme Nationwide came out to the Centre to meet with our Men's Music Shed group in February. The group talked about how music has helped them in their lives and the positive impact it has. The programme will be aired in the near future.

Irish Heart Foundation

Walking leaders programme level 1: - we held a training day in the Centre on 8th February for potential walking leaders. 22 people who were given the information and training needed to organise and run events in a safe manner attended the training. The training was a joint initiative between the Orchard Community Centre, DCC Sports Officer and the Irish Heart Foundation.

Tuesday morning Family Group

This group meet Tuesday mornings 9.30am-12pm. Since February, this group has grown with many new members coming in each Tuesday. We plan to run a healthy eating programme with them soon.

Young Mothers group

This group meet every Wednesday morning in the Centre. The group is for mothers under the age of 25yrs. It offers support and assistance to those attending and provides an outlet for social interaction and meeting other young mothers. In February, they started a 'get active' programme in the Centre. This gives mothers a chance to take up an activity while their children are being looked after in the Centre. All activities take place in the Centre. Familibase runs this programme.

Indoor Bowling

We recently received two indoor bowling mats along with bowls and other equipment needed to play the game. Over the next couple of months, we will put on a number of open mornings for people to drop in and give bowling a go. The hope is that we can run a regular group every week who will play the game for fun and grow that group one day into a bowling club.

Sports Hall Extension

The build is on schedule and on budget for completion by end of May 2020.

Community Garden

Through the Cherry Orchard Social Plan, “year round” poly-tunnels were procured and should enhance the Community Garden into an ongoing social enterprise.

Environmental Projects

The Ballyfermot Environmental Group supported by the Fusion Project and the City Council maintain 20 Planter Boxes along the Main Road in Ballyfermot. The Group propose to repair and repaint the boxes in the coming months and to replant with spring bedding.

The Community Development Team has collaborated with Bluebell CDP and the Parks Department on a tree-planting project in the Bluebell area and has identified a green space that is notorious for illegal dumping and has plans to install a themed mini garden. The space will be cleaned and planted by the local community and a youth group.

Newly formed Drimnagh Community Environmental Group have been supported by the Council to promote a community tree-planting project. The group propose to plant a tree in as many front gardens in Drimnagh as possible to enhance the aesthetics of the area.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020: Coiste Bhailethormaid has organised a great programme of events to promote Seachtain na Gaeilge. Highlights include a parade along the Main Road in Ballyfermot to be held on Tuesday March 10th assembling at 10:30am at the Library with children from 5 local schools taking part. The Ballyfermot Trad Hub is organising an Adult Céilí in the Ballyfermot Civic Centre on March 12th at 8:00pm. Coiste Bhailethormaid and the Ballyfermot Trad Hub formed one year ago and have had great success promoting the Irish language, music and traditions in the area.

Coiste Driúimeanach: The Council has established a new committee in Drimnagh to organise events to promote Irish during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020. Events include: a Céilí in the Good Counsel GAA Hall on Sunday March 15th at 3:00pm, a talk on *Irish place names presented by Éanna Ní Lamhna and a pop up Gaeltacht in Our Lady of Mercy School. The group also propose to host an information stand with traditional Irish music being played at the Drimnagh Luas stops on Monday morning March 9th between 8:00am and 9:00am to show case the events happening during the week.*

Ballyfermot Network:

The Council is working with Ballyfermot Festival to establish a Community Network of community and voluntary groups in the Ballyfermot Area. The hope is to promote greater connection, cooperation and collaboration among the groups in the area and to encourage information sharing. The Network would also support a more unified approach in planning events and activities in the community. The first meeting of the Network will be held on Tuesday 25th of February at 7:30pm in the Ballyfermot Civic Centre and is open to all voluntary groups in the area.

Community Festival event training: The Council in partnership with Dublin City Council Culture Company has organised a practical training session for community organisations that organise community festivals or events. The course started on Wednesday February 12th and will run for 5 weeks. The course will provide information on planning, finances, legal and governance. The Course aims to support festival Committees and is booked out with groups from Ballyfermot, Drimnagh, Inchicore and Cherry Orchard.

Social Inclusion

The Council are identifying community partners and linking up with the HSE to develop Dementia friendly spaces in the Ballyfermot Resource Centre Café and the WALK Green

Kitchen. The initial stage of the project will include visiting similar projects in the city and organising Dementia Awareness training in the area.

The Council is working with the Ballyfermot Men's Shed and Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project (BTAP) young Men's Group to identify a project that both groups will work on and will include a transfer of skills.

Public Domain

The cast iron bins at the Ballyfermot Road/Decies Shopping precincts have been identified for repainting. The lamp standards were painted last year and other street furniture will be surveyed for treatment. Bluebell and Drimnagh shopping areas are being surveyed for similar painting/improvement programme. Graffiti overpaint / removal at Kylemore Rd, Chapelizod, Cherry Orchard was completed. The Public Domain Section has identified some areas that require a planned cleaning operation, ie Claddagh Green Plaza and St. Martins Row. It is hoped that this can be facilitated by Waste Management over the coming weeks.

Drimnagh Task Force

Two responses were received to the research tender. These will be examined in the next few days.

Kay Noonan,
Acting Area Manager
Ballyfermot/Drimnagh Local Electoral Area.