

**Housing, Community & Emergency Services Department  
South East Area Office**

**To the Chairperson and Members of the  
South East Area Committee**

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**Report of the Director of Services, South City**

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**Grand Canal Sub Group**

A meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> January with Waterways Ireland representatives and Councillors to discuss ongoing management and maintenance of the canals in the city and to agree a new structure for interaction between Waterways Ireland and Dublin City Council. It was agreed to have quarterly meetings on an ongoing basis and details of the next meeting will be circulated in due course. A further meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 with Waterways Ireland Management to agree the structure of meetings going forward. Draft Terms of Reference for this meeting have been circulated. The first quarterly meeting has been delayed due to the current crisis but will be held as soon as possible in 2020.

**Portobello Harbour Square**

An initial meeting was held with City Architects Section on 17<sup>th</sup> October to examine an outline brief for the proposed redesign of Portobello Harbour Square, bearing in mind the new hotel development on the site which has recently commenced. Contact has been made with architects for the developer and works to develop the hotel will run from February 2020 to August 2021. In the meantime, various small scale improvements will be introduced to improve the public realm in conjunction with City Architects Section. A meeting was held on site with hotel developer's architects, John Fleming and Associates, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and further meetings will be held in due course.

**Rathgar Village Improvement Plan (VIP)**

Herzog Park, Rathgar – Final Phase 2020

The Rathgar Village Improvement Plan (VIP) was approved by the South East Area Committee in January 2015. One of the main objectives that emerged during the formation of the plan was the redevelopment of Herzog Park. The South East Area Office undertook local consultation and worked with Redscape and Park Services to create a plan which was brought to Part 8 and approved at the January 2017 meeting of the City Council. The final phase of the works planned for 2020 include the re-alignment of the front boundary of the park and the revised car park layout, as set out in the Part 8 permission. Boundary treatment and further landscaping inside the park will be required as part of the works to finish the project.

**Ranelagh Gardens Park**

Works to light / enhance the main entrance archway are being considered for 2020 subject to funding.

**Ringsend Irishtown Local Environment Improvement Plan (LEIP)**

The Ringsend Irishtown Local Environment Improvement Plan (LEIP) was adopted at the June 2017 South East Area Committee meeting. It is proposed to prepare planning applications under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, for the redesign of (1) Library Square and (2) Cambridge Road.

**Library Square:** (Mitchell & Associates) Meetings with internal stakeholders were held during September and October 2018. A meeting was held with local businesses to discuss parking / loading arrangements on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. A presentation was made to area councillors

on 13th February 2019 and a preliminary draft design was brought to a public meeting for all stakeholders on Thursday 21st March 2019 in the Ringsend Irishtown Community Centre (RICC). Following a period of consultation up to 19th April 2019, submissions were received and have been reviewed by the project team. A revised design was brought before the Public Realm Working Group on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019. A meeting of all internal stakeholders was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and further meetings will be required with key departments before design can be finalised. Pre Part 8 report will be circulated to internal departments in the near future. Following that, Councillors will be briefed and a second public information meeting will be held before commencing the formal Part 8 process.

**Cambridge Road:** (Redscape Architects) An initial public workshop in relation to Cambridge Road was held on Thursday 30th August 2018 in the RICC. Meetings with internal stakeholders took place in September and October and designs were drafted based on consultations which were brought to a second public workshop/meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Further information is required in relation to road design and drainage requirements for the proposal. Further discussions have recently taken place with Road Design & Construction, Environment & Transportation Department, and they have confirmed that will take on the completion of the Cambridge Road project to Part 8 during 2020.

### **Rosary Hall**

It is necessary to carry out remedial works for the acquired premises at Rosary Hall. Consultant architects and quantity surveyors have been engaged to determine and coordinate the full extent of works required on site. A drone & topographical survey has been concluded. Onsite meetings have taken place between the Consultant Architect, Dublin City Council's (DCC) Architect and Area Manager. An itinerary of potential costs had been prepared by a consultant architect with the assistance of a consultant quantity surveyor. It is now anticipated that works could cost in the region of €300,000 including mechanical & electrical works, fire safety works, some remedial works and lift replacement.

Therefore, a priority list of works is currently being prepared. No definitive funding had been identified for this project as yet. Due to the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic is financially impacting on the income base of the City Council a review of all projects is underway. The financial impact will primarily be determined by the length of time the current restrictions are in place which ultimately could impact on the scope of this project.

### **Age Friendly Initiative Harold's Cross**

The inaugural meeting of the Age Friendly Committee took place on January 28<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. A draft report was submitted by the Harold's Cross Village Community Council (HCVCC) in conjunction with Rob Chester, Area Community Officer and it was agreed to progress a number of these proposals funding permitting. In tandem, it is proposed to hold a workshop to further engage with the residents and ensure particularly any elderly resident who was not consulted has an opportunity to contribute to the process and be included.

A further meeting took place March 10<sup>th</sup> and was well attended and the plan to date was reviewed. Key points from the meeting included: that the Community Growing Hub initiative is accelerating at pace and will require assistance from Dublin City Council for use of Rosary Hall. A new location will need to be sourced for the defibrillator as it will not be possible to locate in Harold Cross Park per Les Moore unfortunately.

Proposed date of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30m was set for the Facilitation and Independent Facilitator Deirdre Massey had been contacted to assist with the consultation. Concerns about Covid – 19 were raised which may mean the Workshop may have to be deferred, although initial planning will continue.

A subgroup under the Housing SPC has been convened to look at the citywide Age Friendly Strategy; under this structure, submissions for funding may be advanced including the Harold's Cross Project.

Due to the current government guidelines on social distancing and cocooning all meetings are currently postponed until further guidelines allow for larger meetings.

### **Pearse Memorial Park Crèche**

The crèche extension will be financed by the Crumlin Childcare Crèche. However, DCC have agreed to project manage the construction works in conjunction with consultant architects.

The build element after tendering will cost in the region of €305k and the crèche was asked to supply the necessary documentation regarding finance, which they now have furnished. A meeting between Crèche Manager and Area Manager took place on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb.

The crèche has reserve funding itself, a 50k grant from Pobal and, €25k from discretionary funding and has sought a loan from Clan Credo of €125k which has now been approved and signed off by their Board of Management on 29<sup>th</sup> January. The works have been tendered by our Parks & Landscape Services Division and will be project managed by that section. A separate hurling wall project has been tendered by Parks and will be paid for by DCC. A further licence extension of another five years (10 in total) was agreed at the December area committee meeting and was agreed at the January Council Meeting.

The Law Agents have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding by agreement between the crèche and DCC before construction can begin and are awaiting return of these documents.

### **Rutland Grove**

Meeting took place on 30<sup>th</sup> January with Traffic Engineers, Les Moore from Parks, Area Manager, staff, and Cllr. Pat Dunne. It was agreed at the meeting that Traffic Section would look again at the feasibility of putting dedicated parking as per Part 8. If it possible to implement the design would need to progressed and costed. Parks are prepared to look at enhancements also at the entrance and the chair of the residents' association has provided ideas in relation to this.

### **Armagh Road Senior Citizens' complex (FOLD VHA)**

A small number of tenants moved into the first block in early March but following restrictions introduced as a result of Covid 19 no further moves took place. In addition, construction and snagging works were halted in compliance with Covid 19 Health and Safety restrictions. The project has since been designated an Essential Project and work has now recommenced on site. We are currently awaiting further information from FOLD VHA in relation to a programme for moving more tenants in to the completed units.

### **Raleigh Square Senior Citizens' Complex (Tuath VHA)**

There was already some delays encountered with construction works and the units were unlikely to be ready for occupation before April. However, given the Covid 19 restrictions, work was halted on the site in March and will not recommence before May 18<sup>th</sup>. We are awaiting further information from Tuath VHA on when the units will be ready for occupation.

### **Mount Argus**

It was expected that these units would be handed over in March following the completion of snagging works. However, due to Covid 19 restrictions work was halted on the site and will not recommence before May 18<sup>th</sup>. The units were due to be managed by the Iveagh Trust VHA but they have pulled out and negotiations are ongoing with another VHA. The units will consist of 4 x 1 beds, 8 x 2 beds and 1 x 3 beds.

### **St. Pancras, Mount Tallant**

3 x 1 bed units and 4 x 2 bed units will be acquired in this new development and handover was expected by the end of Q1, 2020. However, due to Covid 19 restrictions work was halted on the site and will not recommence before May 18<sup>th</sup>. These units are likely to be managed directly by DCC rather than an Approved Housing Body.

### **Cabbage Patch**

Tenders are currently being prepared for the refurbishment of the football pitch at the Cabbage Patch.

### **Peter's Place**

This matter will be revisited when covid-19 restrictions are relaxed.

### **Markievicz House**

More than 80% of work is complete in Markievicz House; however, the completion of works is on hold due to the current crisis. Our Project Estate Officer is in constant contact with the residents of Markievicz House.

### **St. Andrew's Court:**

It is expected that there will be a design team in place by the end of June. As soon as the current situation is over/restrictions lifted the de-tenanting of St. Andrew's Court will be completed.

### **Community Development**

The Community Team's principal work at this time is responding to requests for assistance from member of the public that are isolating under the Voluntary Response Initiative.

We have comprehensive lists of volunteers for each of our six main villages and surrounds and to date we have assisted 250 -300 individuals in connecting to the Volunteer network in their area. We have requested that volunteers stay connected to each client for the duration of the emergency restrictions. If they need to stand down for any reason we assign a new volunteer to liaise. The main requests are for shopping and pension collection, although we have received requests for transport for hospital appointments and other reasons. Such requests for transport are now routed to the Irish Red Cross or Civil Defence. Requests routed via the ALONE and Dublin City Council Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system have declined in the last few days. However, we are now receiving some very difficult requests including those returning from hospital and recovering from Covid – 19. These clients have complex medical, meal and other service needs that go outside of the Volunteer Response. The incredible work of the Volunteers must be acknowledged at this time, they have made the process much easier for us and it demonstrates the strength of community activation within our communities when the need arises.

Groups have been informed of the availability of funding under the Covid – 19 Emergency Funding especially for those that are supplying and managing volunteers. Two applications have been received to date.

We will having five community Plant Giveaways in May/June, these will be distributed through community groups and leaders with all social distancing and other protocols observed. Dates will be advised when arranged.

The Planter Boxes for Kimmage and Crumlin are ready to go. The supplier has constructed all the items ordered and we await easing of restrictions to start these village improvements. Work continues on the development of the Crumlin Village Walking Trail with the Crumlin History Group as this can be carried out remotely.

Many communities are requesting the roll out of agreed village improvements through Tidy Towns and other initiatives. However, planning and decision making is all that happen at this time.

The Area Community Officers across the South East Area now meet every two weeks (Zoom/WhatsApp), to ensure continuity of service and update on local area developments and plans.

Woodstock in Rathmines has expanded and is reaching a lot of people in our area. Philip Daly the main guy here.

Ringsend Irishtown Community Centre is working with local restaurants and a local café to provide meals and deliveries to locals in that area.

St. Andrews in Pearse Street is also providing meals and help to local people.

There are three small groups in Sandymount who are cooking and baking and delivering to some private nursing homes, some local people isolated and others that arise and they are very helpful.

**'Holding It Together Apart'** is a Community Development project aimed at helping people to maintain their physical, spiritual and mental well-being while isolated and at home with Covid 19.

We now have a new website dedicated to this project [www.holdingittogetherapart.com](http://www.holdingittogetherapart.com)  
Developed by Declan Hayden Community Development Manager in South East Area, DCC and Muirne Bloomer Artistic Director and Choreographer, the project was envisaged as a response to arising needs in the community following the COVID19 Restrictions.

The unprecedented challenge for people staying at home sees new and difficult stresses at various levels. For the person living alone, increased loneliness, lack of engagement, confinement in one space brings one challenge. For the family space and entertaining, maintaining sanity, calm and equilibrium in the daily routine brings others. Cocooning in a small apartment is very different than a house with a garden. Mental Health is a very core issue for all

The aim was to develop a range of activities and interesting projects for all ages and backgrounds that were easy to do and could be followed each week.

We have links with many great artists, creative developers and professionals, many who worked with us in the Dublin City Area on ongoing projects who also were challenged with very little work in their area who were also struggling with the lock down. We started with the plan to provide classes in dance, meditation, movement and creative practice to help engage all members of families and households in staying active and calm.

- **Tarik Shabani** is a professional dancer who has worked on a host of professional theatre, festival and studio projects.
- **Aoife Munn** is a renowned horticulturalist featuring on RTE regularly who has been working with DCC Parks Recreation & Community in the past few years on education.
- **Hugh Brown** is an Actor with 22 year's experience in Film, Theatre, Street Performance, Circus, Clown and Music, specialising in producing work for young audiences
- **Anne Tannam** is a published poet with two collections and a new one to come in 2020 and also a qualified life coach with a background in teaching and facilitation.
- **Maureen Nightengale** is a one of the founding directors of Yoga Therapy Ireland and has been teaching yoga for over 20 years.
- **Andrew Clancy** is a renowned Sculptor and set designer, his work is in both public and private collections and over the past twenty years has exhibited widely.

Further classes will aim to include cooking and baking, laughter yoga, narrated stories and poems, pandemic pooches (a dog competition), ritual and grieving assistance and new dances.

We have been assisted by Aideen Gohery who is our social media coordinator and video editor

We aimed to have the programme on as many platforms as possible and to have it shared as much as possible to reach people.

Please do share these videos and the email to as many people in your community groups and help us all in **#HoldingItTogetherApart**

### **Waste Management / Environmental Services**

Logistical support to Community Clean Ups on a limited basis.

Illegal dumping reports to Waste Management for removal

Litter wardens patrolling & monitoring South East Area.

**Graffiti**

Graffiti being removed by Contractor on a case-by-case basis. No direct labour graffiti removal until Covid 19 restrictions lifted.

**Graffiti Trial**

2 properties in Portobello have been written, to and waiver forms supplied. Portobello Tidy Towns have given a commitment to assist in future graffiti removal following the application of Graffiti Trial. No response from 1 property to date. 1 property has responded favourably. 2<sup>nd</sup> letter and waiver form to issue to address 2.

**Abandoned Bike Removal**

30 bikes removed as per request from Roads & Traffic. Bikes identified as causing a hindrance to pedestrians as part of the Covid 19 Social Distancing Exercise.

173 bikes removed to date in total.

**Weed Control**

Pending.

**Traffic cone removal**

Pending subject to lifting of Covid 19 Restrictions.

**Proposal for spending additional funding allocated for locally based waste management initiatives in South East Area**

Dog fouling patrols suspended until Covid 19 restrictions lifted.

**Mary Taylor**

Director of Services, South City

Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020