

**Director of Services Report
South Central Area Committee Meeting
20th May 2020**

Area Committee & City Council Meetings Administration

Cora Roche has replaced Caitriona Woulfe in this role and can be contacted at 222 3654 or cora.roche@dublincity.ie

SOUTH WEST INNER CITY ELECTORAL AREA

Public Realm and Economic Development

Public Realm Improvement Programme

Work on a number of schemes has not proceeded as planned due to Covid-19 restrictions however, with the removal of some restrictions from 18th May projects are now advancing:

Bridgefoot Street Park – Parks Service is currently engaging with the site contractor Bracegrade to reactivate this site in coming weeks subject to correct health and safety measures. A revised workplan for the project will be advised to councillors in the next report.

Bridgefoot Street median and cycleways – a replanting scheme for this central median is being prepared for completion at the end of the year following works to the park. Work on new cycleway provision on Bridgefoot Street was partially completed before March. Final sections, which will require some civil works, will be undertaken over the summer.

Francis Street Environmental Improvement Scheme – tendering for this scheme was successfully completed in April. It is hoped to begin work on the project in the summer with a likely build time of 10-11 months.

Reuben Street tree planting – works to install 6 no. tree pits and planted area were due to take place in March. It is hoped to complete the main civil works in early summer, possibly holding off tree planting until winter 2020.

St Catherine's Park – gravestone relocations and landscaping works were also due to take place in March. Again, it is hoped to proceed with these works as soon as is feasible. It is proposed to increase opening times of the park to include access at weekends.

Pedestrian and cycle prioritization measures – the Area Office is seeking for a number of measures to be assessed in The Liberties and some busy village locations to assist with social distancing.

Economic Development

Business activity across the city has been profoundly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is impossible to know at this stage the full effects on areas such as The Liberties and urban villages in the area, however it is clear that much of the progress of recent years to revitalize commercial life in the area has been very significantly set back:

- A small number of **essential businesses** (food and pharmacy) have continued trading during the pandemic and the Area Office wishes to acknowledge the staff of these business who have been working in extraordinary circumstances.

- Some businesses such as cafes are tentatively reopening with takeout services. The Area Office anticipates that **requests for outdoor street furniture** in the area will increase in coming weeks as these businesses seek to open and operate with greater social distancing. This will require careful management of the public realm.
- It is proposed to retool and extend the **Shopfront Improvement Scheme** to assist businesses which may require help cleaning up and repairing shopfronts damaged during the lockdown.
- A **commercial rates** holiday is currently in place for businesses for Q2 (April – June) under the Government’s emergency measures to deal with Covid-19.
- **Tourism** in The Liberties is undoubtedly very significantly affected by Covid-19 and it is as yet unclear when and how many attractions and places of interest will reopen. The Area Office is committed to working with local tourism partners to recover from this unprecedented shock.
- **Construction** sites: it is anticipated that work on a number of large construction sites in the area will begin again from end of May as outdoor work becomes more permissible. This is likely to be perceived as increasing noise, traffic and pressure on parking. The Area Office will continue to work with Traffic & Transportation Services to manage the public realm as effectively as possible.

Kilmainham Mill

The closing date for the invitation to tender for a construction team to carry out the enabling works has been extended to May 27th due the government restrictions. Site visits for tenderers will be facilitated during the week of the 18th May.

Work continues on the Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth grant programme, which was also extended to June 30th.

Housing Updates

Bonham St .Dublin 8. Volumetric Build

Prior to the site closure the scheme was on programme. Due back on site May 18th. DCC has designated a community liaison (Mark McInerney) to engage with residents regarding their concerns.

Mark can be contacted @ 0877371254 mark.mcinerney@dublincity.ie

Cork St/ Weaver St. Volumetric Build

Prior to the site closure the scheme was on programme. DCC has designated a community liaison (Veronica Hand) to engage with residents regarding their concerns. Due back on site May 18th.

Veronica can be contacted @ 0870997512 veronica.hand@dublincity.ie

Margaret Kennedy SQ. Dublin 8.

Prior to site closure the contractor had reported a 3 week delay in programme. Due back on site May 18th.

St Michael’s Estate Emmet Road Dublin 8.

Design Team Appointment May

Tyrone Place D8. Regeneration.

Study underway .Report due for completion in July.

Liberties Cluster D.8.

Study underway.

Oliver Bond Regeneration.

SIMS building. Three options explored. New community centre and football pitch to be considered as part of the scheme. Model and plans to be presented to newly established local consultation group for feedback as soon as model available.

Mark McInerney has replaced Paul White as the Project Estate Officer for the Oliver Bond area. Mark can be contacted @ 0877371254 mark.mcinerney@dublincity.ie

Dolphin House Regeneration Masterplan Dublin 8.

Masterplan to be completed and agreed by all stakeholders

Community Development and Covid-19 Community Response

The SWIC Community Development Team (Community Responders) are dealing with daily and follow up calls received on the ALONE and Dublin City Council community response hotlines. This service is in operation for nine weeks at this stage 7 days a week, from 8am to 8 pm.

Although this Pandemic has catastrophic impact on its victims and their families, an incredible bond has developed between the many Frontline Medical & Emergency services. In addition, all the Essential Service providers throughout the City, the connectivity among many of our existing community groups/residents associations, city neighborhood contacts communities, neighborhoods, and individuals is overwhelming.

Volunteers from all walks of life have offered their services to help those who have been affected in some way by COVID 19, through offering their assistance to collect shopping, medication, pension advice, walk the dog, or light maintenance such as grass cutting etc., Local services and voluntary groups have rallied together to meet the requests of those who are in need of assistance and support.

This programme has a positive impact for so many of the callers, linking them to contacts in their neighbourhood that they never knew about prior to this, now they wish to be included in anything that is going on in their area so that they have something to look forward to post Covid-19.

The Team continues to communicate all useful links and information that will assist individuals and groups to manage with some of the issues (mental health, isolation, anxiety activities for home schooling parents/guardians) that our team are encountering during these calls and follow up with the volunteers

Allotments/Community Gardens –

All the budding gardeners and allotment holders are excited and looking forward to the prospect of the reopening of Flanagan's Field – Rueben Street on May 18th.

The Community Development team continues to support local groups/organisations during this difficult time for all through telephone/virtual meetings as mentioned below:

Dolphin Regeneration: Supporting Sub Group for community development and fund management. Attending Zoom meetings for it and planning for future development and the challenges to come.

Child and Family Support Network:

Attending bi weekly Microsoft Team meetings with 38 other local stakeholders to share information and support, referrals for families and children in Dublin 8.

Muslim Community:

Supporting and linking this community to relevant resources and initiatives/information, including, Ramadan Broadcasts and the use of Dolphins Barn Church with the cooperation of the parish priest.

Homeless:

To give support to local Family Hubs and local Homeless Services. Providing information, practical support and a conduit for local links.

Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) PhD Placement in South Central Area

Due to the current COVID 19 pandemic, the Community Development Team and Assistant Arts Officer will continue to contribute to the VTS PHD study by taken part in focus group discussions around the philosophy of art in community work through online conferencing. However, the facilitated group conversations around art images as part of the study, which were, scheduled to take place with older persons groups, cannot continue at this time. We plan to resume these sessions at a rescheduled time later this year.

Kilmainham Inchicore

Food Bank Inchicore

KIN are working in collaboration with Frontline Make Change, St Patrick's Athletic FC and Dublin South City Partnership to help set up a sustainable Food Bank Initiative in the Inchicore/Kilmainham area. The project has been running for the last three weeks. This initiative is a community led response to a food insecurity issue directly related to the current Covid-19 situation. Three target groups have been identified: the over 70s who are cocooning, clientele of Frontline Make Change (Addiction Service) and the third group are made up of marginalised socially excluded vulnerable families. In the first week around 80 parcels were delivered and this 3rd week over 130 parcels were delivered, we believe that this number will continue to grow.

Irish Water works at "The Pitch at Devoy Road" and at Grand Canal, Suir Road

Irish Water Works are near completion at "The Pitch", Devoy Road and at the Grand Canal, Suir Road. The pitch will be grassed over with a few trees planted. The Canal bank is being reconstructed.

Inchicore Regeneration Consultative Forum

Emmet Road Development Site

An Integrated Design Team has been appointed for the DCC Emmet Road development site, an announcement of the successful application will be made in the next few weeks, post a 14 day cooling off period as well as legal

Report from KIN/CF Workshop Jan 2020

This workshop explored the community view on planned developments at the DCC Emmet Road site. Connect the Dots facilitated the workshop and are compiling two reports. One report will be given to the Integrated Design Team and the second Internal Report expands on information gathered on the day and will be a useful reference for future design consultations.

Jack Nolan Report

CF have written to Minister of State Damien English T.D. requesting that the appointment of an Independent Chair for the proposed Kilmainham Inchicore Development Board be carried out immediately. Once the Chair is appointed then the proposed recommendations and

actions from the Nolan Report can be reviewed and implemented. In response to the CF letter the Department of Housing has stated that the request is being reviewed. To date no appointment has been made.

Public Domain

A Clean up of Molyneux Yard took place on May 12th 2020. A very successful operation resulted in seven truck loads of waste being removed from a private site and the public lane. It is expected that the site will be securely hoarded in the coming weeks.

Three tiered planters and flowering Baskets for City and Inchicore will be ready early June. Urban wash programmes will resume after lockdown restriction lifted. Graffiti removal of urgent nature ongoing. Areas completed, Cork St Cornmarket, Thomas St Carmans Hall, Hanover Lane and Donore Ave. Marrowbone Lane Container re-opening has eased the pressure on Waste Management crews however, illegal dumping is still an issue with many customers, in bag collection areas particularly around Inchicore and Rialto, presenting segregated waste without consulting the collector's calendar. Public Domain will begin working again on enforcement when Covid restrictions are eased.

Report from: -

Bruce Phillips,
Senior Executive Officer
South West Inner City Local Electoral Area.

BALLYFERMOT/DRIMNAGH ELECTORAL AREA

Housing Projects

Chapelizod/Springvale Site

The contractors will re-commence on site on 18th May. We are awaiting a court date for the judicial review hearing. If the judicial review is granted, it is likely that an injunction to prevent the construction work continuing will also be allowed.

3.8 Acre Site at Sarsfield Road

City Architects have continued work on designs for the proposed social housing development on the site. Housing Management have discussed these plans informally with the Dept. HPLG particularly around the concept of intergenerational living and universal design. It is intended to hold a formal meeting with the Dept. shortly, the outcome of which will be discussed at the next Sarsfield Working Group meeting.

OLV site on Sarsfield Road

As Councilors' are aware, this site is for disposal to Respond for development. Site investigation works are due to be carried out this week, which will involve clearing the site of rubbish and cutting back bushes and overgrowth to allow access.

Cornamona Site

Work will recommence on site on Monday 18th May. There will be strict adherence to Government guidelines around H&S; a Safety Statement will be required for each site and training for contractors and subcontractors around social distancing etc.

Crumlin Road

The potential impact of Bus Connects on the project is being examined currently.

Bluebell Regeneration Project

Housing Development and City Architects are currently working on a vision document for the project.

There have been reports of dumping along the maisonettes at Lissadel Road. The Area office, in conjunction with the Public Domain Unit are doing a flyer drop followed by calls to inspect proof of waste collection where appropriate.

The Area office is working with Public Domain on initiatives to tackle the illegal dumping problem around the area of the swale at Elmdale. A longer-term solution will be looked at when the present crisis is over.

Work is continuing on refurbishment of the void properties in the area, albeit at a slower rate due to Covid 19 restrictions. Five properties let to date in May with forty-four let to end of April 2020. Rent assessments and estate management issues continue to be addressed with staff combining remote working and rostered office attendance.

Skate Park Le Fanu Park

Work is nearly completed on the new skate park and will be taken in charge by DCC in 2-3 weeks' time although it is likely to remain closed until at least June according to the current Government roadmap for lifting Covid 19 Emergency restrictions.

Kylemore Park

No work has taken place on the Kylemore Park upgrade since the restrictions were imposed. The company carrying out the work are from Northern Ireland and have been unable to travel due to the restrictions. I will keep Councilors' updated as to when this work can recommence.

Springvale Allotments

The contractor is intending to commence work on the relocation of the allotments from the Springvale site to adjacent to Donore Harriers on 25th May, weather permitting. That date is subject to change.

Ballyfermot Civic Centre Park

The landscape architect is continuing work preparing the drawings. We are hoping that there will be funding available to complete this upgrade of the Park. A presentation, scheduled for April's meeting, was cancelled but will be rescheduled.

Food Bank

DCC via the Ballyfermot Civic Centre are delivering bi-weekly to vulnerable older persons in the following Older Persons Complexes:

Fr. Lemass Court, Rossmore Ave., Rossaveal Court, River View Court, Blackditch Court, Claddagh Court and Fr. Kitt Court. The Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Partnership deliver to vulnerable families and older persons in the wider community. The Civic Centre is the hub for all non-perishable foods from St. Vincent de Paul and Foodcloud, which is then subdivided by staff from the Partnership, staff from DCC and staff from the Civic Centre. The bags are packed and delivered each week by DCC staff and An Garda Siochana community team to our older person's complexes. To date, 311 food parcels have been delivered to vulnerable older persons. Familibase and Advance have also been supported with food items. In addition to food parcels, school meals and meals on wheels are also being delivered locally to support families in need. All agencies are working collaboratively to avoid duplication and will work together around gradually reducing the service as the need diminishes.

Community

Covid Helpline

The Community staff continue to support the Covid Helpline Ph. 2228555, which is operating 7 days a week. The majority of calls refer to individuals that are cocooning or in isolation that require shopping, collection of their prescriptions or pensions. Over 180 Local people have volunteered to support the Helpline. In parts of Drimnagh, Walkinstown and Chapelizod we have volunteers on every street who have been very helpful and are providing a great local service.

The Council has circulated the Dublin City Covid 19 Emergency Fund scheme to local groups that are directly involved in the Community Call response to the Pandemic. Funding of up to €1000 is available to groups.

To date the following groups have applied for and been recommended for funding :

Walkinstown Green Social Enterprise group (WALK) and the Ballyfermot Resource centres towards the provision of meals on wheels.

Cherry Orchard Family Resource centre towards the making of cloth masks for older people and volunteers in the community.

The Order of Malta, Drimnagh Unit towards transport costs and provision of personal protective equipment.

Environment

The City Council will be distributing 1000 trays of bedding Plants that were cultivated in the Cherry Orchard Community Garden to 18 groups, which includes, our Sheltered Housing Complexes and Environmental groups in Ballyfermot, Bluebell, Walkinstown, Chapelizod and Drimnagh. Groups will be provided with Cloth masks, gloves and information to ensure proper social distancing.

Residents in Ballyfermot will be encouraged to take part in “Ballyfermot in Bloom”. Residents will submit a photo of their garden in bloom, which will be entered into a raffle for garden equipment. The local camera club will take photos of many of the residents in their gardens to create an on street exhibition. As part of this initiative the City Council will distribute information on reporting illegal dumping and the litter hotline to every house in Ballyfermot.

Social Inclusion

The City Council supported the St. John Bosco’s Youth Club who produced a video clip celebrating diversity and unity in Drimnagh. The video features people saying, ‘There is no strength without unity’ in their own native tongue, over the background of a multi-lingual banner featuring 38 languages.

The Community staff are in contact with the summer projects, festival groups and voluntary organisations throughout the area regarding their plans for the remainder of the year. We are in contact with the groups where the membership are older to keep them updated on supports and local services.

The Community Development staff contact details for Ballyfermot /Drimnagh area are:

Scott.watson@dublincity.ie	087 1643170
Miriam.flynn@dublincity.ie	086 8151320

The Orchard Community Centre is currently closed as per COVID-19 instructions.

Staff from Centre have been assisting with the COVID-19 requests we have been receiving via the Community Hotline for same.

The construction of the Sports Hall Extension has also ceased for the moment, however with the phased pathway back to work, we expect the project to being soon.

DCC staff from the Orchard Centre have being assisting St Vincent De Paul directly with delivering vouchers and other essentials to families in the area that have not availed of the food bank in recent weeks.

The remote working situation has introduced the online meetings platforms with many community groups in the area including Restorative Practice, Youth Groups, GARDA, Community Team from DCC, Equine Centre amongst others.

Report from: -

Kay Noonan,
Acting Senior Executive Officer
Ballyfermot/Drimnagh Local Electoral Area.

Cherry Orchard Parkwest Local Area Plan

Work is ongoing on a submission for funding to the Urban Regeneration Development Fund. Details of this and of the status of the Local Area Plan will be provided in the June report.