

## **Report to the Planning and Urban Form Strategic Policy Committee – November 2020**

### **‘Greening of Dublin’ Item No.3 on the Agenda**

The importance of parks, green space, trees and being close to nature has been brought to prominence during the covid pandemic. Public surveys, anecdotal evidence and international research has demonstrated that quality public green space and trees are essential elements both for the health and well-being of urban communities and for the achievement of environmental quality standards for water and air quality and reducing the impacts of pluvial flooding events.

However, the city within the canals is a very densely populated area with a network of busy streets and public spaces. It differs from the ‘suburbs’ outside the canals in that for the most part it does not have a great deal of quality green space or trees to enhance biodiversity, provide ecosystem services or demonstrate the changing colours of the seasons in an environment dominated by concrete, steel and asphalt.

The deficit of green space and trees in the city centre was highlighted in the City Parks Strategy and ‘greening’ strategies have been prepared in consultation with local communities for The Liberties, the North East Inner City and Stoneybatter.

The presentation will illustrate a sample of the interventions that have taken place to date which have opened up approximately 1.6ha of hard surface within the city centre which has seen the re-introduction of soil which is the essential organic substrate for the enhancement of biodiversity and establishment of trees and vegetation.

The success of greening interventions is based on collaborative consultation with communities and interdepartmental cooperation.

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