

**Director of Services Report  
South Central Area Committee Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**SOUTH WEST INNER CITY ELECTORAL AREA**

**SOUTH WEST INNER CITY AREA REPORT**

The Area Office is awaiting advice in respect of construction/outdoor work that might take place under reduced public health restrictions from 5<sup>th</sup> March. 'Ready-to-go' projects currently affected by restrictions include:

- Francis Street Environmental Improvement Scheme
- Bridgefoot Street Park - Planting works in particular are time-critical here.
- Bridgefoot Street Median – Tree planting is time-critical
- James Street Median
- St Catherine's Park, Thomas Court
- Linear Park at St James's – MISA entrance works

**Linear Park at St James's**

A non-statutory public consultation on the overall masterplan closed on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and a report is being prepared.

**Dolphin's Barn Interim Village Improvements**

A series of measures to enhance the appearance of Dolphin's Barn are proposed and the Area Office is currently undertaking preparatory work with the hope to be more active on the ground later in the year as public health restrictions are reduced.

**Roads Maintenance Works Programme 2021**

A range of repair and upgrade work to footpaths and carriageways across SCA has been prepared by Roads Maintenance Section for action in the coming year.

**Cycle Route 7b Thomas Street to SCR-Suir Bridge Road**

A project team led by Sustainable Mobility Section has begun initial design work for a high quality cycle route from Thomas Street to SCR-Suir Bridge Road. The proposed route interacts with other live projects including Meath Street and Environs Public Realm Project, 'Liberties Cluster' housing regeneration at Marrowbone Lane/ Pimlico and Linear Park at St James's.

**Small Public Spaces and Greening Projects 2021/22**

The Area Office and Parks Section are currently assessing a number of locations for the creation of small public spaces, planted areas with potential SUDs benefits, and street tree planting for action later this year and into 2022. It is proposed to engage with residents once proposals have been further developed.

**Shop Front Improvement Scheme 2021**

The South Central Area Office's Shopfront Improvement Scheme 2021 (SWIC) will be announced on 15<sup>th</sup> February. It is planned to target 12-15 projects this year.

**SmartD8 District Official Launch**

The Smart D8 smart city district official launch is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> March (online). The SmartD8 programme brings together a range of partners in Dublin 8 to develop collaborative approaches and pilot projects to challenges in the areas of healthcare and community wellbeing. A programme for the launch will be advised to Councillors shortly.

## **MODOS – promoting a Circular Economy in Dublin**

The Area Office, together with The Digital Hub, is currently working with the Economic Development Office to develop a MODOS programme promoting the circular economy among business in SWIC. MODOS considers best practice environmental approaches to production, waste, packaging etc. It is hoped to run a MODOS programme later this year.

## **HOUSING UPDATES SWIC**

### **Bonham Street .Dublin 8. Volumetric Build**

<b>57</b> 26 x 1 bed 26 x 2 bed 5 x 3 bed	Construction stopped as per Government Guidelines.	Completion of Scheme	Q3 2021
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DCC have designated a community liaison person (Mark McInerney) to engage with residents regarding their concerns. Mark can be contacted on 087 737 1254 and email [mark.mcinerney@dublincity.ie](mailto:mark.mcinerney@dublincity.ie)

### **Cork Street/ Weaver Street Volumetric Build**

<b>55</b> 32 x 1 bed 10 x 2 bed 13 x 3 bed	Construction stopped as per Government Guidelines.	Completion of scheme	Q1 2022
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DCC have designated a community liaison person (Veronica Hand) to engage with residents regarding their concerns. Veronica can be contacted on 087 0997512 and email [veronica.hand@dublincity.ie](mailto:veronica.hand@dublincity.ie)

### **Margaret Kennedy Square, Dublin 8.**

<b>54</b> 8 x 1 bed 18 x 2 bed 28 x 3 bed	On site	Completion of scheme	Q1 2021 Expected handover of units 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb.
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### **St Michael's Estate Emmet Road, Dublin 8.**

Emmet Road, D.8 (St. Michael's)	Design in progress. Planning will be lodged April 2021.	
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### **Tyrone Place D8. Regeneration**

Status: Feasibility study underway.

### **Liberties Cluster D.8**

Stage 1 application being complied for Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

### **Oliver Bond Regeneration**

Stage 1 application being complied for Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

### **Dolphin House Regeneration Masterplan Dublin 8**

The Dolphin House Regeneration Masterplan approved on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 by the Dolphin House Regeneration Board. The Board have written to Dublin City Council recommending

the plan. Dublin City Council and the Dolphin House Regeneration Board will roll out further consultations with the residents of Dolphin House for final approval.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Dublin City Covid 19 Emergency Fund (2<sup>nd</sup> Round) is now open for on line applications. The closing date is 5pm on 26th February 2021.

Applications must be made online from the following link:

<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/improving-my-community/local-community-development-committee-lcdc/dublin-city-covid-19-emergency-fund-2nd-round> .

To help groups when applying, detailed guidelines, terms, and conditions are also available online. This fund is for community and voluntary groups in Dublin City. Please note that 30% of the funding is ring-fenced for grants of €1,000 or less and that a maximum grant value of €5,000 will apply.

### **Covid-19 Emergency Community Call**

The Community Development Team continues to provide a service for the Covid 19 community call initiative throughout the current Level 5 restrictions.

### **The Dublin Learning City Project**

The Dublin Learning City Project is producing an online Virtual Learning Festival 2021, comprising different workshop over a period of three days from 22nd March to 24th March 2021.

Dublin City Council's SWIC Community Development team is delighted to support this event, through its involvement and sponsorship of the Weaving in The Liberties Project. Established in 2019, following four taster sessions hosted throughout the Liberties community in autumn 2019, and now it continues as a weekly tutorial course.

The project is a wonderful collaboration by service providers DCC/AES in the Dublin 8 area. Bringing together two groups of enthusiastic participants', morning and evening who have embraced the art and history of weaving, through the practical weaving classes led by an experienced tutor, with the use of various materials, along with talks on the history of weaving and textiles, by DCC's historian in residence.

The Dublin Learning City project is fully funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) Access Initiative that brings together people and organisations including the main education providers (UCD, TCD, NCAD, Marino Institute and IADT) to work targeting socially disadvantaged learners, encourage and support them to take up learning opportunities at all stages of their lives.

The purpose of the festival is to draw people's attention to the learning opportunities that exist throughout the city and to celebrate and promote learning in the city and emphasise that it can be fun and free.

### **Community Development Grants 2020**

The payment of eligible grants continues, all applicants who have returned their required documents should receive their grants by end of February 2021. There is currently no decision on Community Grants for 2021 to date.

### **Historian in Residence - History Talks**

The first of our webcam series of local history talks took place in St James's Parish Church on 1st February, and we are delighted to report that the feedback has been tremendously positive. The objective of these talks is to reach an audience of listeners that are confined to

their homes due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The webcam is the perfect medium for residents throughout the area who tune in on a daily basis for church services etc.

The talk which was presented by DCC historian in residence Cathy Scuffil, focused on the first social housing to be built in this part of the city after the Rising, including - Ceannts Fort, Spittal Fields, James's Walk and the Tenters.

The response to the talk was immediate with a resident from the apartments in Echlin Street running across the road as Cathy was leaving the church to say how much he had thoroughly enjoyed her presentation. This was followed by numerous texts and messages from local residents enquiring if they could access the talk in order to send it to their relatives in America. Messages of praise were also received from Canada.

The next talk will take place during Seachtain Na Gaeilge. Cathy's talk for Seachtain Na Gaeilge will focus on the research she has carried out with regard to the Irish language and the Liberties. It seems the Marrowbone Lane district and its surrounds was an Irish speaking area during and post the Irish Famine years. This sounds very interesting indeed.

### **Virtual St. Patrick's Day 2021**

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day 2021, The SWIC Community Development Team with the support of Dublin City Arts office, are working with schools to plan a virtual celebration to mark the day. The schools will select the classes, the students will receive a pack with paper facemasks and colours to decorate. Pictures will be sent to teachers of students wearing the finished product by parents. Schools will also record videos of performances by students and all images and videos will be linked together on an amazing St. Patrick's Day Virtual Celebration, that will be available to view on Dublin City Council's social media pages during the St. Patrick's Festival.

### **KILMAINHAM INCHICORE NETWORK**

Circle Voluntary Housing Association will present to Kilmainham Inchicore Network with regard to the 52 unit assisted living development on the "1b site" beside Thornton Heights. The February Kilmainham Inchicore Network meeting is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> February. There is space for another Elected Councilor to join the monthly Kilmainham Inchicore Network meetings (5.30-6.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month), please email [aoife.hannan@dublincity.ie](mailto:aoife.hannan@dublincity.ie) if interested.

### **Inchicore Regeneration Consultative Forum**

The window display at the project office is continually updated with new information about the Emmet Road Project. Information is also available at <https://www.emmetroad.ie/> Phase 2 of public consultation is currently underway. Home leafleting of the local area is also underway, with new information about the consultation process. New outdoor posters displaying information about the consultation process webinar are also displayed. A public consultation webinar is organised for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 between 6pm-8pm. Registration is at [www.emmetroad.ie](http://www.emmetroad.ie)

A multicultural and elderly targeted awareness campaign is underway to ensure full information share and opportunity to participate will be offered.



An outdoor exhibition will be launched at end of February 2021. This will include permanent structure panels and benches along the perimeter of site, exhibiting design layers and project information. A youth engagement Instagram event is in progress with Core Youth Service and Mercy Secondary School, targeted at 13-18 year olds engagement in the design process. The event is due to take place in early March, all local youth groups/schools will be invited to participate.

Subcommittees of Inchicore Regenerative Consultative Forum include: Consultation Process, Civic and Community Spaces, Education continue to work with DCC, Bucholz McEvoy Architects and Connect the Dots with regard to various aspects of the consultation process and development.

The February meeting of the Inchicore Regenerative Consultative Forum takes place Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### **Kilmainham Mill**

A construction team to carry out the enabling works for the mill are awaiting the easing of level 5 covid restrictions in order to being work on the mill buildings.

### **Newcomen Bank Building:**

Howley Hayes Architects have been appointed as the Architect led multi-disciplinary design team to carry out the phase one preliminary design process. A minor stripping out / enabling works package is being created.

A consultation process on the potential usage will commence shortly also.

### **PUBLIC DOMAIN**

Six hundred square meters of graffiti has been removed or overpainted in the area since the beginning of 2021.

St. James's Walk and the four terraces have been cleaned by Public Domain along with Bridgefoot Street, Cook Street and Oliver Bond Street. Planned clean-ups will continue pending available resources. All the lanes in the south west inner city, particularly Manning's Lane, Molyneux Yard, St. Catherine's and St. Michaels's Close/Schoolhouse Lane, are getting regular treatment as they have been identified as areas where street drinking/drug use is prevalent.

Three tiered planters are ordered for the summer for SWIC. The painting programme will focus on key junctions in Dolphins Barn.

Report from: -

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

## **BALLYFERMOT/DRIMNAGH ELECTORAL AREA**

### **Park West / Cherry Orchard LAP**

The Park West / Cherry Orchard Interdepartmental Working Group is meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February. The group has representatives from the Area Office, Drainage, Parks, Planning and Housing Departments. The key priorities are the development of the eight sites (five of which are largely owned by DCC), and the two amenity sites – Cherry Orchard Park and Gallenstown Waterworks. Site 1 – Elmdale / Hospital site is being advanced for affordable housing and a design is currently being prepared. Discussions are ongoing with Cherry Orchard Football club in relation to their clubhouse. The best methods for progressing the remainder of our sites is being examined.

An application for funding in the sum of €31,618,770 for various projects was made to the Urban Regeneration and Development fund in 2020, which would require match funding of €10,539,590 from the City Council. This funding is towards the implementation of key objectives of the LAP, to support the delivery of between 2,200 and 3,000 new homes, along with new employment and enterprise space, supported by new community and recreational facilities. The major elements are:-

Cherry Orchard Park redesign and redevelopment (€8m)

Gallanstown Waterworks, exploration of feasibility and design (400k)

Strategic Greenway Design, - Le Fanu Park to the Grand Canal (€300k)

Bridge Design and Construction (over the Grand Canal, linking Le Fanu Park, Cherry Orchard Park, the Train Station, Park West and Gallanstown to the Canal Greenway) – (€2.14m)

Servicing sites 2, 4 and 5 of the LAP

Cherry Orchard Community and Social Enterprise Hub (€2.69m)

Public Lighting upgrade throughout LAP area (€3.173m)

Extension of Community CCTV system (€500k)

Upgrade of wider area water supply and foul drainage network (€1.6m)

It is hoped that a decision on the URDF application will be received in the near future. In any case it is hoped to commence redesign of Cherry Orchard Park later this year.

## **HOUSING PROJECTS**

### **Chapelizod/Springvale Site 71 Units**

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, all work on site has ceased. Date for reopening of site has been extended beyond 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Current expected completion date is Q4 2021, which may have to be revised due to the latest closure.

### **3.8 Acre Site at Sarsfield Road, 176 Units**

The most recent meeting of the SWG was held on 4<sup>th</sup> February at which reps from City Architects Department gave an update on the stage 1 application from DCC to the Dept. Housing, Planning and Local Government. The ambition of the SWG is to develop this site as one project with a masterplan for the overall site to ensure a certain amount of coherence and consistency across the entire site. The need to include intergenerational housing meeting, the local need and providing choice, with sustainability and flexibility and universal design permeating across the site has also been identified.

The stage 1 application incorporates many of these ambitions and a number of options were presented to the group. The breakdown of the 176 units would be over three blocks with Block 1 consisting of sixty 2P/1B, with 24 wheelchair liveable and 36 UD. Block 2 consists of thirty-five 2P/1B, twenty-eight 4P/3B and fourteen 6P/3B. Block 3 consists of thirteen 2P/1B, twenty

3B/4P and six 3B/6P duplexes. This proposal will achieve 50% UD approximately across the site. The next steps will include submitting the revised plan to the Dept.

A cost effective analysis is required on projects over €30,000,000, therefore it is appropriate to cost both options i.e. phasing and one build, to be submitted with the Dept. application. Community consultation and the difficulties of community engagement was also raised and work is ongoing to develop an information leaflet with images and contact details to be distributed to residents shortly.

### **Cornamona Site 61 Units**

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, all work on site has ceased. Date for reopening of site has been extended beyond 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The expected completion date is Q1 2022, which may have to be revised due to latest closure.

### **Crumlin Road/Rafters Lane Site**

The demolition and site clearance planning process is ongoing and is an item on February's agenda. A design team has been appointed to take the project to the next stage. The redevelopment of the site will be the subject of a separate Part 8 Planning application. The library development will be a separate development.

### **Bluebell**

City Architects, in conjunction with Bluebell Community Council, are currently looking at designs to take forward for Stage 1 approval.

### **Lissadell Maisonettes**

Two of the two-bed maisonettes have now been let under Choice Based Lettings with the remainder (7) currently undergoing refurbishment and will be let when ready.

### **Cherry Orchard Green**

Further landscaping works planned for early 2021 and engagement continuing with the local residents who have formed an environmental group. This engagement is being carried out in conjunction with Cherry Orchard Youth Services but has been limited due to Covid 19 restrictions.

### **Skate Park Le Fanu Park**

The proposed fencing in the skate park is awaiting delivery and installation but has been delayed due to Covid 19, as it is not deemed essential works. The proposal is for a 2.4m high weldmesh to both skate and play park, which is the same type as around the pavilion and changing rooms in Le Fanu Park. An Garda Síochána are continuing to monitor the Park. Ballyfermot Youth Service continue to engage with local youths and there has been no further reports of anti-social behavior.

### **Kylemore Park**

The contractor completed most of the upgrade works before Christmas but there are still some outstanding tasks to be completed. The contractor, (travelling from the North) will not be able to complete his work with current restrictions. There was an incident in the Park on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> where a trampoline was burned. Familibase and the restorative practice worker have continued to engage with the residents and the youths in area and An Garda Síochána have been notified.

### **Ballyfermot Civic Park**

It is hoped to commence work on the Ballyfermot Civic Park in Q1 2021 when the selection of the preferred contractor has been finalised. Further meetings will be arranged between the landscape architect, the artist and the community reps. to discuss all elements of the project. A revised plan for the entrance to the park at Civic offices has been circulated to members of the Tribute Garden Committee for their comments.

### **Markievicz Park**

At the request of residents, alterations have been made to the gate at O'Hogan Road entry point, an additional bench is ready to be installed, and quotes are being obtained to replace the table and benches, which were vandalised. The damaged bin will also be replaced. This work will proceed early in 2021.

### **Cherry Orchard Park**

A meeting was held on site on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. to discuss minor repairs to the astroturf pitch for use by the Cherry Orchard Running Club. It was agreed, to repair the lights and the fencing and ensure that the area is kept clean for use. The Running Club have agreed to assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the park. When these works are completed, the area can be assessed for further upgrade while a full plan is being implemented for Cherry Orchard Park under the Local Area Plan.

### **Orchard Centre Update**

As we are currently in Level 5 of the Covid 19 guidelines, the centre is on a minimum staff shift and staff are present on a limited basis each day. The centre is closed to the public, however we are taking deliveries etc. based on the center's needs.

The Ballyfermot Disability Collective are engaging remotely with the staff for themed events for 2021.

### **Covid 19 Community Call**

Dave O'Donovan with the assistance of the Orchard Centre staff continue to monitor the helpline for the area, whilst calls are less frequent than during 2020, there are still members of the community who require assistance.

### **The SVP Foodbank**

This is continuing on a weekly basis and are splitting their clients on a bi weekly basis for socially distant observations.

### **International Women's Day**

The Centre aims to organise online sessions a series of small events for International Women's Day.

### **Cherry Orchard Development**

The Cherry Orchard Development Group (Secretary Dave O'Donovan) has secured its funding for 2021, next meeting is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, and we shall update as we proceed through 2021.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Community Development team continue to encourage and develop local responses to support older people during this time.

### **Older People**

The City Council is working with five youth organisations in Ballyfermot, Drimnagh, Bluebell and Chapelizod to encourage connections with older people in the community, especially those in our sheltered housing complexes. The youth organisations will link up with one of the complexes in the area and organise intergenerational activities. The first project is to mark St. Valentine's Day and involves young people writing over 400 Valentine cards that will be delivered, with chocolate to older people on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>. The next project will be around the environment and music.

The City Council is working through two Parish Churches, in Drimnagh and Ballyfermot to organise webinars from the Church webcams. Talks on history and health and well-being will take place during the month of March.

### **Environmental Projects**

The City Council are encouraging residents to get involved in local street clean ups. To Kick-start the clean ups the Council is organising a Saturday clean up to take place on: Saturday 13th of March at 11:00 am in Ballyfermot and Bluebell. Working through the local Environmental Groups the Council will provide equipment and arrange for rubbish collection.

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 Environmental Groups in Ballyfermot and Bluebell are working with the Council to identify locations for 20 new community planters. The planters will enhance the area and be maintained by local volunteers.

### **Chapelizod Allotments**

The Council has provided a second storage container for the allotment holders in Chapelizod. There are no parking facilities at the allotments. The Council are grateful to Donore Harriers who have agreed to allow access to their car park for occasional usage such as to drop off supplies or delivery of large items. A committee will be elected when restrictions are lifted.

### **Community Participation**

#### **Ballyfermot Festival**

Congratulations to the Ballyfermot Festival Committee on their two week virtual festival. The committee supported community organisations to host events on line from history to music and drama. The events attracted over 60,000 likes, shares comments on line from all over the world. Hosting events online while initially challenging, became a great learning experience for all involved. Having events on line made them more assessable to a much wider audience.

#### **Seachtain Na Gaeilge 2021**

The Council is Supporting Coiste Bhaillethormaid to organise programme of events to promote Seachtain Na Gaeilge. The Coiste committee has great representation form the local schools and community groups. Events to include, on line and pop up traditional Irish music, an art competition, 'Stay safe, and wear a mask' publicity campaign.

Coiste Droimeanach has reformed and plan to organise events in Drimnagh during Seachtain Na Gaeilge. Events include an art competition, photography challenge and a quiz on social media. The theme is "Ni neart go cur le chéile" and will include a project on inclusion and diversity.

Cathy Scuffil, Historian in Residence, will organise an online talk on the origin of many of the Irish words we use daily.

### **Community Supports**

The second round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund provided by government via the Department of Rural and Community Development has allocated a total of €117,246 to Dublin City Council. Applications must be made online from the following link:

<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/improving-my-community/local-community-development-committee-lcdc/dublin-city-covid-19-emergency-fund-2nd-round>

The Closing date is 5pm on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The Community staff have circulated this information to over 35 local groups.

The Covid Community Call Helpline continues to operate 5 days a week to respond to requests for local supports on PH. 01 2228555.

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

<b><u>Scott.watson@dublincity.ie</u></b>	<b>087 1643170</b>
<b><u>miriam.flynn@dublincity.ie</u></b>	<b>086 8151320</b>
<b><u>victoria.kearney@dublincity.ie</u></b>	<b>087 6009002</b>

### **PUBLIC DOMAIN**

Cherry Orchard Drive, Croftwood Park, Ballyfermot Avenue and Parade, Le Fanu Rd/Grange Cross, Bluebell Avenue, Lissadel Road and Rafters Lane have been cleaned and cleared of street litter and illegally dumped materials. Further clean-ups are planned pending available resources. The site at St Oliver's Training Centre will be secured over the coming weeks and the illegally dumped materials removed in a planned initiative with the area office, Development and Public Domain. Illegally dumped materials along the Park West Avenue/Barnville Site boundary and the Swale in Cherry Orchard Green will be removed simultaneously. Graffiti has been removed from Croftwood Park and La Touche Road.

Report from: -

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