

**Director of Services Report  
South Central Area Committee Meeting  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

**SOUTH WEST INNER CITY ELECTORAL AREA**

**SOUTH WEST INNER CITY AREA REPORT**

**Francis Street Environmental Improvement Scheme** – the Area Office is awaiting clarification from Roads Design & Construction on the proposed start date for this project.

**Meath Street & Environs Public Realm Improvement Scheme** – draft plans for Meath Street will be on public display along the street from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April for two weeks. Two online public information sessions are being held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 11am and 6pm. This informal consultation will allow the design team to gain initial community feedback on the emerging design for the street ahead of a planned Part 8 in summer.

**Bridgefoot Street Park and Median:** Covid restrictions have delayed work on the park, we are awaiting notification of a restart date.

A smaller project to green the median along Bridgefoot Street is now rescheduled to October to facilitate tree planting during the winter planting season.

**James Street Median and Cromwell Quarters:** a planting scheme and associated public realm works to the median at James Street and the steps at Cromwell Quarters is hoped to commence in July.

**Local Area Greening and Street Tree planting:** the Area Office and Parks Department are exploring a number of smaller greening projects for Carman's Hall, Blackpitts and Reuben Street/ Haroldville Ave and St Anthony's Road in Rialto. Surveying work will be undertaken over the summer to inform potential locations and allow wider engagement on the plans.

**Oisín Kelly Park/ Basin Lane:** various works are proposed to improve public realm here including repair and upgrading of the main boundary wall, relaying of footpaths in the area and the introduction of street trees. It is hoped to being the boundary wall work in late May/ June depending.

**Cork Street:** HSE Estates is currently inviting ideas from the community for a 5 year rolling programme of conservation and environmental works to its historic complex at Cork Street (Bru Chaoimhin, Weir Home and Quaker Burial ground). The call out is until 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Newmarket:** Temporary uses in the public realm are being examined, which may form part of the City Recovery Plan.

**Dolphins Barn :** Funding for improvements in this area has been allocated and a programme is being prepared.

**Economic Development**

**MODOS for Dublin 8 – Circular Economy Training:** The Area Office is partnering with The Digital Hub to deliver this training programme for SMEs in Dublin 8 in June. A callout for applications will issue shortly.

**Shop Front Improvement Scheme:** the Area Office continues to invite applications for the shopfront scheme in SWIC. Dublin City Council is also currently offering grants to Tourism and Hospitality businesses across the city to facilitate outdoor dining. The scheme is funded by Fáilte Ireland.

## **KILMAINHAM INCHICORE NETWORK**

### **Turvey Park:**

Community and Institution collaboration is paying off. Vast improvements can be seen down in Turvey Park and it's down to the hard work of keen local gardeners in conjunction with DCC. It is of great credit to see how local residents working with DCC can lead to huge improvements to an area. Well done to all involved.

### **Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme Public Consultation:**

A Virtual Information Event will take place on April 28th at 7pm. The event is being hosted to update interested stakeholders on the works that have been completed so far and to what works will be carried out in the near future. To assist the project team on the night it has been requested that any questions are forwarded in advance of the event and any interested parties register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/river-camac-fas-tickets-149280910221>. All welcome to attend.

### **Bus Connects:**

Bus connects completed its 3<sup>rd</sup> round of non-statutory public consultation in December 2020. All submissions are being reviewed and considered for the finalization of the Preferred Route Options Reports. It is expected that the statutory planning applications will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) during June or July for its consideration and determination.

A formal statutory public consultation process will then be undertaken by An Bord Pleanála as part of their deliberations. During this process, the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report for each Scheme, plus Preferred Route Option Reports and Traffic Impact Assessments will be published and available for viewing. The public will again have the opportunity to have their views heard and considered by An Bord Pleanála as part of the process of their consideration of the proposals. For more information go to:

[www.busconnects.ie](http://www.busconnects.ie)

### **Call for new members for KIN:**

KIN are interested in hearing from new groups/members who would like to join the monthly meetings and share information about what is going on in the area.

## **Inchicore Regeneration Consultative Forum**

### **Civic and Community Space Subcommittee:**

A draft position paper is being prepared outlining the Community's requirements in terms of ensuring that our Community and Civic Spaces at Emmet Road will create a focus for community life and growth in Inchicore and Kilmainham and better quality of life for all. A co-design process with Bucholz McEvoy Architects has led this subcommittee. A Progress Report has already been sent to DCC and a Final Report will be sent once ratified by IRCF.

### **Meanwhile Activity and Community Building Subcommittee:**

A new subcommittee is in the process of being set up to facilitate engagement between Local People – Sharing, Working together, Inclusion, cohesion, building trust, community ownership, pride in our neighbourhood.

### **Public Art Process Subcommittee:**

This new subcommittee is in the process of being set up.

### **Education Subcommittee**

The next meeting of this subcommittee is provisionally planned for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Residential Informal Focus Group**

As part of an early INFORMAL process around the design of the residential homes at Emmet Road, the Integrated Design Team are interested in having a conversation with future possible residents. A small focus group of people is being collated to engage in this conversation

### **Inchicore Sports Centre**

Aaron Callaghan, Manager of Inchicore Sports Centre, is happy to meet with local groups and discuss access and usage of Inchicore Sports Centre. This is being facilitated through IRCF.

### **Kilmainham Mill**

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

### **Newcomen Bank Building:**

Howley Hayes Architects has 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.

## **COMMUNITY**

### **Iveagh Markets Folklore Project**

As a follow up to the re-grouping of the 'Have You Memories of Dublin's Iveagh Markets' evening, a virtual get together evening was organized by the SWIC Community Development Team. For those who could not attend on the night and the many who did, a series of follow up telephone interviews will be taking place over the next few weeks.

All the stories and memories will be collected/recorded as part of an Oral History/ Folklore project commemorating Dublin's Iveagh Markets.

### **Swift Apartments for the Liberties**

Just as swallows mark the beginning of summer in the countryside, the sight and sound of swifts in our cities is a true indication that summer has truly arrived. This year, migratory swifts returning to the Liberties are in for a pleasant surprise, as 12 new swift nesting boxes have been installed in the grounds of the beautiful convent of Warrenmount in Dublin 8.

Swifts are totally dependent on our built environment for breeding purposes as they nest in nooks, crannies, and crevices in older buildings, they also nest under roof tiles. Sadly due to the modernisation of our towns and cities swifts are running out of places to nest and their populations are in serious decline.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of swift enthusiasts like Sister Pauline Galey from Warrenmount Adult Education Centre, our Liberties swifts may be with us for some years to come.

Organised by DCC Community Development Section SWIC in conjunction with The Dublin Swift Conservation Group. Special thanks to DCC Civic Maintenance Section for their assistance.

### **Ceannt Fort - Environmental Improvements**

Work has commenced at the entrance to Ceannt Fort Estate. The area has received a new look with the removal of the existing overgrown shrubbery and some trees, and by replacing with new trees and a new planting scheme. Also the area damaged at the entrance to the play area has been repaired. The yellow box on the roadway was fully reinstated following works.

### **Annual Spring Planting Initiative**

The Community Development Team plans to again supply various community groups with a small amount bedding and perennial shrubs to encourage groups to undertake and maintain environmental work in their local area. The team is in the process of contacting groups and hopes to arrange the supply and delivery of same in the coming month. Groups will be requested to sign up to strict safety protocols with regard to receiving plants and communal planting will also be discouraged, in line with COVID 19 safety requirements.

### **Where the Wild Flowers Grow**

This summer, Rialto's bee population and other pollinating insects will have something to feast on. Over the last two weeks 500 packs of native wildflower seeds have been given to local households, gardening groups and children's homework clubs. The seeds were packed into individual envelopes by local volunteers and distributed throughout the area. Residents also received a leaflet with information and tips on:

- Creating a wildlife friendly garden
- Encouraging wild birds, setting up nest boxes and bird feeding stations
- Anti - litter and dog fouling information
- How to protect and enhance local biodiversity
- Information on the National Pollinator Plan 2021
- The information reached over 4,600 people on Facebook. Feedback has been enormously positive.

This pilot project was organised by Rialto Environment Group in association with the Community Development Team.

### **Local History Talk - The Estate of Rialto Court**

The Estate of Rialto Court, Street and Cottages is a distinct urban enclave which has witnessed much since the early 1880's when Sir Edward Cecil Guinness requested the Dublin Artisans Dwelling Company (DADC) commence building homes for his brewery workers at Rialto.

Once again Dublin City Council's Historian in Residence Cathy Scuffil presented a wonderful online talk on this historic part of Dublin on Thursday 15th April, 2021.

This event was hosted jointly by Dolphin's Barn & Inchicore Libraries in association with the local Area Office.

### **The Lord Mayor's Award, Youth Awards**



**Lord Mayor's Awards  
Youth Awards 2021**

Do you know a young person (5-13 years old) who has shown resilience and leadership during Covid19? If so, nominate them for a Lord Mayor's Award!

Nominate now at <http://bit.ly/YouthAwards2021>

The Lord Mayor's Awards have honored individuals and groups who have made a special contribution to both Dublin and its citizens. These Awards, usually held annually, are Dublin City's way of acknowledging and congratulating them for the extraordinary work they do.

In 2021, the Lord Mayor's Awards will take place monthly and nominations for the awards are open to members of the public for the first time.

Also, this year the Lord Mayor has announced the establishment of The Lord Mayor's Youth Awards 2021. These awards will celebrate outstanding young people between 5 and 18 years of age who have portrayed resilience and leadership during Covid-19.

Lord Mayor, Hazel Chu, will decide the winners and announce them at two Youth Webinars on Thursday, April 29th 2021.

The first webinar, from 10am – 10:45am, will focus on the primary school children, while the afternoon webinar, from 2pm – 3pm, will announce the secondary school winners.

Nominations for Lord Mayor's Youth Awards will close on 21st April 2021.

The Community Development Team has contacted schools, youth agencies and groups locally to notify them of this opportunity to acknowledge young people in the South West Inner City.

To nominate a young person and register to attend the webinars please visit the nomination portal on the Dublin City Council website, and/or click on the following link :

<https://www.facebook.com/192086314153761/posts/4431127536916263>

### **Public Domain**

Four hundred meters of graffiti removed from the public domain at Thomas Street James Street, High Street, Cornmarket, Inchicore Village, Kilmainham-Bow Lane, Rialto.

PMAC completed gum removal and an intensive wash of Inchicore Village from Emmet Road to Grattan Crescent and Tyrconnell Road on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Waste Management Public Domain Crew deep cleaned at Harcourt Lodge, Bulfin Estate and Rialto. Clean-up equipment was delivered to High Road Kilmainham, Harman Street and IEG.

A community lead clean-up took place on St. Albans /Raymond Street Lane. Public Domain provided skips and clean-up equipment. Community and public domain are working with the Mallin Avenue community on an environmental project. Meetings were held with Waterways Ireland to identify boundaries and responsibilities in relation to infrastructure maintenance.

### **Additional Funding**

Additional funding for public realm works and initiatives was allocated recently, a programme of works is being prepared.

Report from: -

**Bruce Phillips,**

**Senior Executive Officer**

**South West Inner City Local Electoral Area.**

## **BALLYFERMOT/DRIMNAGH ELECTORAL AREA**

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

An application for funding for various projects, which was made to the Urban Regeneration and Development fund in 2020 was not successful on this occasion. Other funding opportunities will be pursued as they arise. As per the recent briefing to local Councillors, work on the preparation of a part \* application for site 1 is ongoing, and should be presented to the Area Committee in September. Sites 4 and 5 are being advanced by the LDA. Surveying of the park will commence shortly.

## **HOUSING PROJECTS**

### **Chapelizod/Springvale Site**

#### **71 Units**

The Springvale site has reopened for construction work from 12<sup>th</sup> April. The timeline for completion of works is being reassessed because of the site closures.

### **3.8 Acre Site at Sarsfield Road**

#### **176 Units**

The first meeting of the sub group of the SWG will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April. This group has been established to progress issues that arise between the full meetings of the SWG. Items for discussion include update on funding application to DHLGH, progress on the feasibility study on potential expansion of Sarsfield House for additional community facilities, discussion about potential refurbishment of Fr. Bidone Court and progress on distributing an Information Note to local residents living in areas close to vacant site at Sarsfield Road.

### **Cornamona Site**

#### **61 Units**

The Cornamona site has reopened for construction work from 12<sup>th</sup> April. The timeline for completion of works is being reassessed because of the site closures.

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

Part VIII approval given for the proposed demolition of the former Scoil Eanna and Funeral Home on lands bounded by Crumlin Road, Rafter's Road and Rafter's Lane, Crumlin, Dublin 12. The redevelopment of the site will be the subject of a separate Part VIII Planning application. The library development will be a separate development.

### **Bluebell**

City Architects is awaiting a response regarding their Stage 1 submission to the DHLGH.

### **Lissadell Maisonettes**

Refurbishment works are still ongoing on the vacant two-bed maisonettes and will be let under Choice Based Lettings. One unit let in April with six vacant units remaining for refurbishment.

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

No further works have taken place due to Covid 19 restrictions but An Garda Siochana continue to monitor the area and there have been no further reports of anti-social behavior.

### **Kylemore Park**

The upgrade of the Park has not been completed and some small works remain outstanding due to travel restrictions which has impacted the contractor.

### **Markievicz Park**

Upgrade of picnic table and seating, installation of benches etc. still under discussion with supplier.

### **Ballyfermot Civic Park**

Awaiting contract signing which is due shortly at which time a clearer programme of works will be devised over the coming months. Discussion ongoing regarding the proposed alterations to the tribute garden to accommodate a larger entrance from the civic centre plaza.

### **Ballyfermot Civic Centre**

Discussions are ongoing with MABS regarding the relocation of their office space in the building. This is to facilitate the relocation of the café from the first floor to the ground floor to link with the upgrade of the civic park. It is likely that the HSE will be using the building for non covid vaccinations for about 5 weeks in the near future.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

### **Environment**

Each of the five neighborhoods have local Environmental Groups and the Council Staff continue to support their work.

The Ballyfermot Environmental Group launched a monthly Community Clean Up on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>. It was great see 5 groups of residents from Drumfinn, Le Fanu, Cherry Orchard, Park west and the Clifden areas take part to clean their streets.

Strict social distancing was adhered to with residents wearing masks and keeping their distance from each other.

The next Community Clean Up will take place on Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>. Residents interested in getting involved can email [friendsofthesouthcentralarea@dublincity.ie](mailto:friendsofthesouthcentralarea@dublincity.ie)

Momentum is building in Cherry Orchard for street clean ups with three streets already signed up for the next clean up on May the 8th.

The Tidy Drimnagh Committee has organised street leaders who coordinate regular clean-ups every month. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of April they concentrated on green areas and outside local shops.

The Walkinstown Residents Association plan to re-establish their clean ups in the coming weeks.

The Bluebell Environmental Group have a canal clean-up planned for Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April at 10:30 and will be joined by the Bluebell Community Angling Club and The Inchicore Environmental Group. Socially distancing will be in place.

Chapelizod Tidy Towns have distributed equipment throughout the community to individuals to carry out individual /street Clean ups.

The City Council is funding the Cherry Orchard Community Garden to provide 1000 trays of bedding plants that will be distributed to local organisations during the month of May. This initiative will replace the Plant Sales for 2021.

The City Council is funding WALK to provide 30 large Community Planters that will be delivered throughout the area during the month of May.

### Anti-litter school campaign

The City Council is working with the primary and secondary schools in the Drimnagh/Ballyfermot area to promote a Litter awareness campaign.

The renowned Environmentalist and radio presenter, Éanna Ní Lamhna will present a short video, via zoom, on the importance of looking after our environment. The pupils will be asked to design an anti-litter poster.

The winning posters will be displayed on the new and existing Community Planters that will be installed around the area during May.

### **Social Inclusion**

#### Friends of South Central Newsletter

The Community Development Team circulate a monthly online update to over 500 Community Groups and local residents.

The Newsletter "Friends of South Central Area" is growing from strength to strength and is a great way to keep people up to date on local Council initiatives, Community events, funding opportunities and items of local interest.

To receive the monthly update residents can email

[friendsofthesouthcentralarea@dublincity.ie](mailto:friendsofthesouthcentralarea@dublincity.ie) or sign up directly through the link:

<http://eepurl.com/g5TWTb>

#### Creative Ireland Mural

The City Council Community Development Section and Social Inclusion Unit are working with Ring Street Youth Club to produce a community mural under the theme of diversity.

The mural was originally planned for Ballyfermot but securing a location within the time frame proved too difficult. The Ring Street group will work with All City Street Artists Collective.

This initiative is funded by Creative Ireland.

#### Lord Mayor Youth Awards 2021

Community staff are encouraging Youth Organisations to submit entrants to the Lord Mayor Youth Awards that celebrates young people between 5 and 18 years of age who have portrayed resilience and leadership during Covid 19.

Nominations close on April 21<sup>st</sup> and can be made on the attached link.

<https://consultation.dublincity.ie/lord-mayor/lordmayorsyouthawards/>

#### The Dublin Learning City

The Virtual Festival that ran from the 22nd to 24th March 2021 to celebrate and promote learning for all, through fun and creative events was a great success with events organised by the council getting a lot of hits on line and very positive feedback.

### **Community Participation**

#### Bluebell Community Angling Club

The City Council is supporting the Bluebell Community Angling Club to repair and replace their information Display stands along their match stretch of the canal that have been vandalised.

#### Children's Archival Project



The Community Staff are supporting the City Council's Historian in Residence to set up Dublin city's first Children's Archive.

All the local primary schools in the Ballyfermot/Drimnagh ward will be encouraged to participate, introducing them to the value of history and archives.

The children's thoughts on the Covid 19 pandemic will be collected in pictures and poems and be stored for future generations.

#### Cruinniú

Cruinniú Na nÓg will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

The Ballyfermot Youth Organisations working together as "Unsung Youth" received funding to host, online events with a Grand Finale on June 8<sup>th</sup>, a Community Arts project and a vocal coaching course.

Ring Street Youth Centre received funding to organise a weekend online workshop with Robert Murphy, actor better known as, Buffy the Olympia Panto Queen.

#### Older People

The Community Call Helpline continues to be managed by Community Development Staff. The Helpline Ph. 2228555 operates 5 days a week to respond to requests for local supports, though the Helpline is not receiving many calls, it remains available to support vulnerable people at this time.

#### Community Knitting Project

The knitting project, established by the City Council and promoted by the Bungalow, Walk and Drimnagh knitters has been a great success. Older people have been provided with knitting packs and collectively have knit over 25 blankets that have been distributed through our sheltered housing schemes. The Council hope to set up knitting classes and clubs as a social outlet when the restrictions are lifted.

#### Bealtaine

The Council will organise webcam talks during the month of May, through the Church webcams to mark Bealtaine. Webcam Talks have taken place from three of the main churches in the area and have been a very successful way to contact residents that are restricting their movements.

The Council are working with the local Youth Organisations to organise planting of the communal areas in some of the sheltered Housing complexes during May.

**The Community Development staff contact details for Ballyfermot /Drimnagh 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>

#### **Orchard Centre Update.**

It looks very likely that the Covid restrictions will need to be at Level 3 before the Centre will have collective indoor bookings. With that in mind we are in the process of upgrading the building with the installation of a new Sports Hall floor and new equipment in the original hall. Furthermore, we will be working with the Ballyfermot Disability Collective and its Chair, on a project that will be unveiled as part of International Disability Day in December 2021.

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

The Orchard Centre staff along with other Community staff, continue to monitor the helpline for the area and, while calls are less frequent than 2020, there are still members of the community who require assistance.

### **The SVP Foodbank**

The foodbank continues to operate on a weekly basis with SVP splitting their clients on a bi weekly basis to observe social distance guidelines.

### **Community Clean Up**

On April 10<sup>th</sup> staff worked with residents of the area for a community clean up. This may become a Monthly event moving forward. Social distancing guidelines were in place during the clean-up.

### **Public Domain**

100 meters of graffiti removed at Cherry Orchard Walkinstown and Bluebell.

Community Deep Clean at Croftwood Park Cherry Orchard Drive, Crescent and Park, Tyrconnell Road. Community Clean-Up equipment –family packs delivered to Croftwood Park Clean up Group, Tidy Drimnagh and Friends of South Central Area Ballyfermot/Drimnagh LEA, Bluebell Environmental Group.

Public Domain Crews facilitated collection of Blue bags at a number of pre-arranged locations across the local area over the past month. Enquiries to email:

[southcentralpublicdomain@dublincity.ie](mailto:southcentralpublicdomain@dublincity.ie)

Report from: -

**Kay Noonan,**

**Acting Senior Executive Officer**

**Ballyfermot/Drimnagh Local Electoral Area.**