

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
SOUTH CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE
15th September 2021

Q1 Councillor Daithí Doolan (deferred from July meeting)

To ask the Director of Services to please outline in tabular form the number of staff that worked in the Ballyfermot office for each year since 2000 up to present day, and to please include their roles or job titles i.e. housing, allocations, admin, community, estate management etc. ?

Reply

Our records for local staff can only be obtained from year 2013.

Details attached.

Contact: David O'Donovan Act Senior Executive Officer

Email: dave.odonovan@dublincity.ie

Q2 Councillor Michael Watters

To ask the Director of Services when the remaining flats at St. Teresa's Gardens are set to be demolished?

Reply

The Housing and Community Services Department expect to issue tender documentation for the demolition of the two blocks of flats at St. Teresa's Gardens in early Q1 2022 and anticipates commencing on site in Q2 2022.

Contact: David Dinnigan

Email: dave.dinnigan@dublincity.ie

Q3 Councillor Michael Watters

To ask the Director of Services if there are any plans to bring the empty maisonettes at 66 to 80 Lissadel Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12 back into use.

Reply

Dublin City Council receives funding from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Works orders have been issued to the contractor and work is due to commence on site on the week beginning 30th August.

Contact: Clive Ahern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Maintenance.

Email: clive.ahern@dublincity.ie

There a number of units at this location that are part of our housing stock, tenants in recent months have been made offers but have refused.

Any units that need to be updated (plumbing, heating etc) will be done in due course.

Contact: Dave O'Donovan Act Senior Executive Officer

Email: dave.odonovan@dublincity.ie

Q4 Councillor Michael Watters

To ask the Director of Services if they could arrange for the empty maisonettes at 66 to 80 Lissadel Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12 organise a clean-up as a matter of urgency, as the residents in the area are unhappy that this area is being used for illegal dumping and burning of rubbish, these issues have also increased the amount of vermin in the area.

Reply

Works orders for the vacant units in question have been issued to a contractor following confirmation of funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A clean-up will take place as part of refurbishment works. The design of the maisonettes on Lissadel Road (which incorporates laneways and large open front gardens) means dumping can be an issue at this location. Housing Maintenance and the Area Office will hold discussions on managing this into the future.

Contact: Clive Ahern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Maintenance.

Email: clive.ahern@dublincity.ie

This area has been cleaned regularly in recent months, we will endeavour to keep the area clean and tidy. I shall liaise with other relevant colleagues on tackling the ongoing issues.

Contact: *Dave O'Donovan Act Senior Executive Officer*

Email: dave.odonovan@dublincity.ie

Q5 Councillor Michael Watters

To ask the Director of Services to provide an update on the Inchicore library, Dublin 8 and when a library will once again open in Inchicore.

Reply

The tender for the project was issued on 15th May 2020. Following evaluation of tenders a letter of intent was issued to the preferred contractor in October. Pre-commencement administrative work was undertaken in November and December with the intention to commence on-site immediately in 2021. On 8th January the Government imposed restrictions on all non-essential construction. When those restrictions were lifted the preferred contractor informed the design team that they were unable to stand over their original tender price. DCC is currently preparing to go back out to tender.

Contact: *Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian*

Email: brendan.teeling@dublincity.ie

Q6 Councillor Michael Watters

To ask the Director of Services to contact the LDA to request that they return the public library at the Digital Hub on Thomas Street, Dublin 8 to Dublin City Council and that this is reopened as a public library.

Reply

The public library in Thomas Street was closed on 1st October 1983, as part of a reorganisation of services in the lead up to the opening of the Central Library, ILAC Centre. We have no plans to open, or re-open, a library in Thomas Street.

Nearby branch libraries are Kevin Street (1.4km); Dolphin's Barn (1.8 km), and Inchicore/Richmond Barracks (2.5km).

Contact: *Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian*

Email: brendan.teeling@dublincity.ie

Q7 Councillor Tina MacVeigh

To ask the Director of Services to install bicycle stands outside number 120 Emmet Road Inchicore to facilitate active transport users to the new businesses at this location and environs.

Reply

This location will be investigated as part of the next batch of cycle parking and if a suitable location can be identified, cycle parking will be installed.

Contact: *Alec Dundon, A/Senior Executive Engineer*

Email: COVIDMOBILITY@dublincity.ie

Q8 Councillor Tina MacVeigh

To ask the Director of Services to alter the times for the pedestrian crossings at the junction of Memorial road and Chapelizod bypass - now that schools have returned I have received reports that the crossing time is not long enough for pedestrians with children to cross safely.

Reply

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. In response to your query we have further increased the green man walk time to 12 seconds for both of the pedestrian crossing arms on Con Colbert Road. This compares favourably to the standard minimum used elsewhere in the city of 6 seconds. The clearance (amber) times at this junction have also been checked and equal or exceed Dublin City Council's standard of 1 second amber for each 1 metre of crossing distance. We have also made some further adjustments to the operation of the pedestrian signal on Con Colbert Road inbound. We have increased the hours of operation for the green man to automatically introduce and have adjusted the signals so that the green man remains green for as long as possible into the subsequent Memorial Road traffic phase. Please note that we are also currently developing options to alter the traffic signal sequence at this junction to further enhance the operation of the pedestrian signals. This will involve specifying, programming, testing and installing a new traffic signal sequence. We will revert to you with a further update on our progress in this matter.

Contact: *Liam O'Brien*

Email: liam.obrien@dublincity.ie

Q9 Councillor Darragh Moriarty

To ask the Director of Services for a status update on the refurbishment of Inchicore Library. I understand the library has been empty of all books and equipment for some time and that construction was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Can the following be answered?

- What is the revised project plan?
- Will the existing tender be renegotiated, or will the project go to tender again?
- What are the revised timelines?

- Can you confirm whether the Council is still fully committed to Inchicore Library renovation and that the project will proceed?

Reply

The tender for the refurbishment of Inchicore library was issued on 15th May 2020. Following evaluation of tenders a letter of intent was issued to the preferred contractor in October. Pre-commencement administrative work was undertaken in November and December with the intention to commence on-site immediately in 2021. On 8th January the Government imposed restrictions on all non-essential construction. When those restrictions were lifted the preferred contractor informed the design team that they were unable to stand over their original tender price. DCC is currently preparing to go back out to tender.

While Inchicore is closed for refurbishment, library services are being provided in nearby Richmond Barracks.

Contact: Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian
Email: brendan.teeling@dublincity.ie

Q10 Councillor Darragh Moriarty

To ask the Director of Services to provide an update on current plans to jointly deliver social and affordable homes at the St. Teresa's Garden site with the LDA. This is due to be delivered as part of the joint masterplan for the Bailey Gibson, Player Wills and Church Lands sites, which are now the subject of judicial referral to the Court of Justice of the European Union. What impact will this have on the delivery of this much-needed housing?

Reply

Dublin City Council (DCC) in collaboration with the Land Development Agency (LDA) aims to deliver approximately 600 new homes on the former St. Teresa's Gardens site. The proposal is to deliver a mixed housing scheme of 30% social housing and 70% cost rental. A planning application is currently being prepared for the Dublin City Council owned site for lodgement in Q4 2021.

If the judicial referral becomes prolonged it may affect the delivery of the community facilities that are to be provided on the lands for the local community. The Housing and Community Services Department will continue its communication with Hines, the adjoining landowners and endeavours to keep the local elected members updated.

Contact: David Dinnigan
Email: dave.dinnigan@dublincity.ie

Q11 Councillor Darragh Moriarty

To ask the Director of Services to provide an update on plans to deliver a much-needed community sports amenity, a full-size, all-weather pitch for use by local sports teams, as campaigned for Sporting Liberties, at the St. Teresa's Gardens site. This is due to be delivered as part of the joint masterplan for the Bailey Gibson, Player Wills and Church Lands sites, which are now the subject of judicial referral to the Court of Justice of the European Union. What impact will this have on the delivery of this much-needed sporting amenity?

Reply

Pursuant to a successful Section 183 in October 2020, Dublin City Council is working closely with Sporting Liberties, the St Teresa Gardens Regeneration Board and Hines to develop and construct a municipal playing facility and associated changing rooms which will include a new facility for the boxing club.

The impact of a prolonged judicial referral may result in a delay in the delivery of these much needed community facilities.

The Housing and Community Services Department will continue to keep the local elected members and stakeholders updated.

Contact: David Dinnigan

Email: dave.dinnigan@dublincity.ie

Q12 Councillor Darragh Moriarty

To ask the Director of Services to provide an update on the roll out of green and brown bins to Dublin City Council tenants in public housing complexes.

Reply

Dublin City Council is committed to ensuring waste is disposed of in the correct manner at all Council owned housing complexes. In 2019, a joint Housing Maintenance / Waste Management Services project team was established to introduce segregated waste collections at all Dublin City Council housing complexes on a phased basis, dictated by the volume of complexes in each local area.

As the largest volume of housing complexes are located in the South East Area, this was chosen as the pilot area and was successfully completed in early 2020. Work then commenced in the South Central Area but unfortunately the project was paused due to the arrival of Covid 19 and the initial lockdown of society. Sporadic attempts were made to restart the project in the latter half of 2020, but it was again put on hold when Level 5 restrictions were introduced in January 2021. It is anticipated that work will commence on the project again in Q3 2021. It will then be rolled out to the remaining areas.

Contact: Clive Ahern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Maintenance.

Email: clive.ahern@dublincity.ie

Q13 Councillor Darragh Moriarty

To ask the Director of Services to outline the Area Office's plans to liaise with local schools in the South West Inner City Area in the run up to Halloween to mitigate and prevent the use of bangers and fireworks.

Reply

Dublin Fire Brigade undertake a community fire safety programme of advice and highlighting fire safety throughout the year. The first week in October is fire safety week and we have a number of initiatives every year and again have plans for 2021. We are promoting fire safety on many different media channels and platforms and where possible, in restricted and socially distanced safe events.

For the past 20 years we have actively engaged with the 490+ primary schools in the Dublin area, to advise and promote fire safety among our youngest citizens.

We run a schools fire safety promotion programme throughout the year highlighting the dangers of fire in the home where before the pandemic, we visit schools and give fire safety talks in interactive session from 4th class upwards.

In the same time frame we also have organised fire safety competitions in primary schools and produced an art fire safety calendar every year, this year we are again planning competitions of both primary and for teenage children to promote fire safety and the danger of fire.

We pay particular attention to our messaging at Halloween and have a specific Halloween fire safety initiatives and promote our message as effectively as we can. Every year we have a Halloween fire safety campaign to mitigate the dangers of fire and fireworks as you have suggested, this is done in conjunction with The Lord Mayor and An Garda Síochána and a small number of school children. In 2020 this was done virtually, this year we are hoping if possible to have a socially distanced event to promote our fire safety at Halloween messaging.

We will use our social media channels to promote our message leveraging our award winning Twitter account #dubfirebrigade. This was done very effectively in 2020. Fire safety will be in the media for the month of October with our fire safety week and Halloween fire safety campaigns.

*Contact: Dennis Keeley, Chief Fire Officer, Dublin Fire Brigade.
Email: dennis.keeley@dubincity.ie*

All local schools will be included in any planned community activities which will be permitted to take place in the SWIC area. We have also liaised with Dublin Fire Brigade to collaborate with them in the publication/delivery of fire safety and the roll out of their art competition which they will be promoting soon.

*Contact: Mary Noonan, Community Development Officer, SWIC
Email: mary.noonan@dublincity@dublincity.ie*

Q14 Councillor Daithí Doolan

To ask the Director of Services to resurface the football/basketball surface in Jim Mitchell Park?

Reply

Parks staff have inspected the above location and found the surface to be in good condition.

*Contact: Brid Brosnan, Executive Parks Superintendent
Email: Brid.Brosnan@dublincity.ie*

Q15 Councillor Daithí Doolan

To ask the Director of Services to consider building an extension in (details supplied)

Reply

Tenants of Dublin City Council can apply for adaptations or extensions on medical grounds. Applications are surveyed to see if works are feasible and assessed on medical grounds. No application has been made in relation to (details supplied). Housing Maintenance can be contacted directly for further details on how an application can be made.

Contact: Clive Ahern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Maintenance.
Email: clive.ahern@dublincity.ie

Q16 Councillor Daithí Doolan

To ask the Director of Services to outline the 2021 time frame and budget for traffic calming in Ballyfermot, Drimnagh & Walkinstown

Reply

The 2021 budget for Minor Works for the entire South Central Area is €200,000 which includes Ballyfermot, Drimnagh & Walkinstown. The works programme is being finalised at the moment.

Contact: Will Mangan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer
Email: william.mangan@dublincity.ie

Q17 Councillor Daithí Doolan

To ask the Director of Services to consider installing speed bumps & signage in an attempt to reduce traffic speed along Dowland Road?

Reply

This matter has been referred to the Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) for attention. This issue will be examined by the traffic engineer who will report back to the Traffic Advisory Group. The councillor will be advised of the Traffic Advisory Groups findings in due course

Ref. No. 7022365

Contact: Niall O'Neill, South Central Area Engineer, Traffic Advisory Group
Email: niall.oneill@dublincity.ie

Q18 Councillor Daithí Doolan

To ask the Director of Services to please ensure the green space on Dowland Road is properly cut and maintained, with grass along the verge and around the trees cut as soon as possible?

Reply

The open space mentioned above is cut regularly as per the landscape maintenance contract. The areas referred to above i.e. under trees, along verges and kerb lines, would traditionally have been treated with weed killer. Dublin City Council Parks Department no longer use these chemicals. While long grass is not to everybody's taste, many people regard the cessation of using chemicals in areas where children play, dogs and people exercise and as a measure to improve wildlife as a positive step.

Contact: Brid Brosnan, Executive Parks Superintendent
Email: Brid.Brosnan@dublincity.ie

Q19 Councillor Daithí Doolan

To ask the Director of Services how many houses, originally City Council houses, in DSC are now being leased back to the local authority or to an Approved Housing Body in order to provide housing to those on DCCs housing list?

Reply

Under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 the consent of the Council is only required on the initial sale of a pre-owned Council property and consent is not required on any subsequent sales.

Consent has been given to the sale of five pre-owned City Council properties where the dwellings were leased under the long term lease initiatives and allocated to social housing applicants.

There are currently 623 properties on long term lease.

To provide a breakdown of what is requested would necessitate checking the title documents for each closed lease. This would have a significant impact on the day to day operation of the Section.

Contact: Kayanne O'Mahony, SEO, Housing and Community Services, Leasing Section

Email: kayann.omahony@dublincity.ie

Q20 Councillor Máire Devine

To ask that the Director of Services attend to the significant flooding that regularly occurs at both ends of the junction between Golden Bridge/Connolly Ave.

Reply

This location is not one that comes to our attention regularly. DCC Drainage will examine and monitor the drainage network, and get back directly to the Councillor.

Contact: Colm Fitzpatrick, Senior Engineer, Drainage Services

Email: colm.fitzpatrick@dublincity.ie

5 of the 5 gullies at the area above were cleaned on 05/09/2021 by members of the Gully Cleaning Crew in the *Surface Water & Flood Incident Management Division*.

Contact: Richard Sheehy, Senior Executive Engineer, Surface Water and Flood Incident Management.

Email: richard.sheehy@dublincity.ie

Q21 Councillor Máire Devine

To ask that the Director of Services attend to the flooding that regularly occurs at SCR entrance to Rothe Abbey?

Reply

DCC will investigate and monitor the complaint of flooding at this location. It's not one that has been brought to my attention before. The area is served by a large diameter combined sewer. I'll have it checked out and revert to the Councillor.

Contact: Colm Fitzpatrick, Senior Engineer, Drainage Services

Email: colm.fitzpatrick@dublincity.ie

Q22 Councillor Máire Devine

To ask the Director of Services for an update on the negotiations with the owner of the railed garden at Rialto Cottages that commenced some months ago?

Reply

The Council are currently awaiting legal documentation from the vendor's Solicitor. This process has now been ongoing for several months. Once this information is received, it is expected that negotiations can commence.

Contact: Bruce Phillips, Area Manager, South Central

Email: bruce.phillips@dublincity.ie

Q23 Councillor Máire Devine

To ask the Director of Services if the copious amount of fallen leaves can be frequently gathered up at the SCR, Kilmainham area as they conceal the delineation of footpaths and road making it dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

Reply

Waste Management Services will ensure that the above mentioned area is included as often as possible in our leaves removal programme over the autumn and winter months.

Contact: Mick Boyle, Senior Staff Officer, Waste Management Services

Email: mick.boyle@dublincity.ie

Q24 Councillor Máire Devine

To ask the Director of Services what are the access times of the refurbished St Catherine's Park and to engage with a local resident who has offered to assist with the opening/closing?

Reply

Parks are opening and closing St. Catherine's Park in accordance with the signage in the park. There have been difficulties over the summer covering weekend opening and closing due to staff holidays, however, this should be less of an issue with arrival of autumn. Parks are not aware of any resident offering to assist with opening/closing and given the problems with antisocial behaviour in the park think it may not be prudent at this time.

Contact: Brid Brosnan, Executive Parks Superintendent

Email: Brid.Brosnan@dublincity.ie

Q25 Councillor Máire Devine

To ask the Director of Services -with the return to offices happening, and the prioritizing of cyclists can the Roads Department consider the following suggestions by residents that would make the route from Kilmainham to the city safer and smoother please;

-Bow Lane: There are a number of drains, manhole covers and potholes that aren't level with the road surface. This means taking a road position further out than is often ideal or weaving around the bumps. Can these be brought level with the road surface?

-Thomas Street: Any chance the inbound bike lane could be protected?

-Thomas Street/Bridgefoot Street Junction (inbound): Cars turning left onto Bridgefoot Street often enter (and block) the Bus Lane/Bike Lane here while queuing for the lights. A quick win here would be to use wands to protect the bus lane from people entering

it before the continuous white line becomes a broken white line (for left turns). Something similar has been done on Harold's Cross Road (see below).

-Thomas Street/Bridgefoot Street/Thomas Court (outbound): The advanced cycle signal here is great. However, I've still had a number of near-miss left hooks here where traffic turning left on Thomas Court cuts across the bike lane without looking. A number of really easy quick wins here could make this safer.

- Reinstate the markings across the junction: for whatever reason the bike lane markings aren't visible across the junction. Reinstating these (maybe with some red paint in the bike lane too) would reinforce that there is a bike lane.
- Wands: Some wands protecting the bike lane through the junction would reinforce the separation and force cars to take this turn at a slower speed.

-Thomas Street In General: Any chance of some parking enforcement - bus lanes in both directions are regularly blocked by delivery drivers and double parking.

-Cornmarket/Bridge Street (inbound):

- Protection: wands would be useful to reinforce the advisory cycle lane before the left slip here in order to prevent 'left hook' accidents.
- Surface: The road surface at this junction is not level with **any** of the manholes (and this problem continues until Christchurch). Some of the dips in the surface are quite large that you have to navigate around them in traffic when cycling. Is there any reason these can't be brought level with the road.
- Advanced cycle signal: after this junction some cyclists have to reposition themselves for the following junction (using either the right turn or second lane). An advanced cycle signal would help make this safer.

-Cornmarket/Francis Street (outbound)

- This junction again poses a left hook risk. Some wands to reinforce bike lane, an advanced cycle signal and an advanced stop line (as well as some bright paint across the bike lane) would all help to reinforce the bike lane.

-Christchurch place/Lord Edward Street: before any more significant upgrades as part of Busconnects - would it be possible to widen and protect the existing advisory bike lane. The road width here can handle it.

-Lord Edward Street and Dame Street: the streets will likely see future changes as part of Busconnects and the College Green Plaza so I only have a small request. There are a number of large manhole covers that are not level with the road surface as well as some other pot holes. The size of some of these holes and drops **force** cyclists to weave dangerously on these streets. Surely these can be quickly audited and repaired? Many of the largest drops are on newly surfaced stretches as well (e.g Dame St/Georges Street junction).

-Conyngnam Road/South Circular Road Junction: This road is due to have an upgrade to its cycling facilities which is great and much welcome. The surface here is however in very poor condition, with lots of quick set tarmac and loose gravel in the junction. The loose gravel in particular is very dangerous for bikes. Can this surface be more substantively fixed and the entire junction swept.

-The Canal (to Harolds Cross)

- Is there a good reason this cycle lane is not a) 24 hours, 7 days per week and b) protected (as the very least at junctions)?
- Dolphin Road/Herberton Road: Is there a reason there is no cycle lane through this junction? Again protection from left hooks is an issue that could be easily mitigated against.
- Advanced cycle signals: Given that this a popular cycle route, can advanced cycle signals be considered at all junctions, which again mitigate against left hook type accidents.

Reply

Responding to the Road Maintenance issues within the South Central Area of your comprehensive correspondence Road Maintenance can confirm that resurfacing works are programmed for the junction of Conyngham Road/ South Circular Road later this year as part of our 2021 resurfacing program. The manholes that are at the junction of Cornmarket/ Bridge Street upper will be forwarded to the relevant utilities through our Infrastructure Management Unit.

My Colleague, Madeline McNamara, SE Area Engineer will respond to your Road Maintenance issues within that area.

Contact: Carl Ryan-Operations & South Central Area Engineer.
Email: roadmaintenance@dublincity.ie

The Traffic Department will consider all these requests regarding cycling matters and will send a response to the councillor once the necessary site visits and assessments have been carried out.

Contact: Claire French, Executive Engineer
Email: Claire.french@dublincity.ie

Q26 Councillor Máire Devine

To ask the Director of Services to arrange repair of the entry door at Garden View complex, Francis St. The door to the left of the courtyard no longer locks and is in a state of decay. It could be salvaged and like the adjacent entry door be fitted with "fob" mechanism for security and ease of access for the older residents"

Reply

There is a new fire door ordered for this complex. Dublin City Council are endeavouring to have the door installed by the fourth quarter of 2021.

Contact: Clive Ahern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Maintenance.
Email: clive.ahern@dublincity.ie

Q27 Councillor Máire Devine

To ask the Director of Services for an update on the derogations granted at the construction site in Military Rd, the new Garda HQ?

Reply

The records have been reviewed and to date no request has been received for a derogation to work beyond the permitted working hours.

Contact: Greg Bryan, Administrative Officer
Email: greg.bryan@dublincity.ie

Q28 Councillor Vincent Jackson

That the Director of Services position a small ramp / dishing on Ballyfermot Road next to pedestrian lights facing the GALA / Super Savers Store on the residential side of Ballyfermot Road one of the residents facing the lights is confined to a wheelchair and needs to travel half way down the street to get a safe place to cross the road a dishing beside the pedestrian lights would sort the problem out.

Reply

The installation of a ramp at this location is not straight forward. It is being assessed at the moment by the Area Engineer. As soon as it has being assessed we will be in contact.

Contact: Will Mangan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer
Email: William.mangan@dublincity.ie

Q29 Councillor Vincent Jackson

Can the Director of Services look into the following (DETAILS SUPPLIED).

Reply

The contractor in question was carrying out works on behalf of DCC and has been made aware of the damage caused. The contractor has committed to repairing the damage caused.

Contact: Brid Brosnan, Executive Parks Superintendent
Email: brid.brosnan@dublincity.ie

Q30 Councillor Vincent Jackson

Can the Director of Services please have the Kileen Road Bridge on Le Fanu Road / Kileen Road cleared of all weeds/rubbish? It is hard to believe this narrow bridge with no footpath used by thousands of cars every day was left in such a poor state putting people crossing by foot in real peril as they avoid the weeds/vegetation.

Reply

Waste Management Services will arrange to have this narrow bridge cleared of all litter and weeds before the 10th September 2021.

Contact: Mick Boyle, Senior Staff Officer, Waste Management Services
Email: mick.boyle@dublincity.ie

The removal of weeds/vegetation is co-ordinated by the local Area Office and the funding will be provided through the Road Maintenance budget.

Contact: Carl Ryan- Operations & South Central Area Engineer.
Email: roadmaintenance@dublincity.ie

Q31 Councillor Vincent Jackson

Can the Director of Services please explain when tree stumps are removed from the kerbside why do we continually re-instate with concrete and not replace with another tree? All too often I see areas having trees which need to be removed, just replaced with concrete. I have many examples.

Reply

In the past this process may have occurred following complaint from residents in relation to trees and requests for parking etc. If the councillor could forward the examples then Parks can include on list for stump grinding and tree planting in the following season.

Contact: Brid Brosnan, Executive Parks Superintendent
Email: parks@dublincity.ie

Q32 Councillor Vincent Jackson

Can the Director of Services please give us proper plans for Landsdowne Park, Drimnagh. Many residents wish to see this potentially beautiful area used as a regional park with play facilities etc. In addition are we considering the re-opening of the Pitch and Putt which was a great addition to the area?

Reply

Parks are working on plans to reopen the section of Landsdowne Valley Park that was formerly a Pitch and Putt course as part of the wider Landsdowne Valley Park. As part of this a new network of footpaths will need to be designed, tendered and constructed. The councillor will be updated in due course. The park is a valuable wildlife corridor given the river running through it and is managed to promote this while balancing the needs of the public. Parks have a contractor working this week cutting back vegetation that has become overgrown over the nesting period, to ensure clear sight lines and clear footpaths. Currently we do not have plans to install a playground at this location, however there is an existing outdoor gym.

Contact: Brid Brosnan, Executive Parks Superintendent

Email: brid.brosnan@dublincity.ie

Q33 Councillor Vincent Jackson

Could the Director of Services seek to work with the Ballyfermot Community / Business Community to trial a Car-Free afternoon / Day in the coming weeks/months. More and more people are looking to see if these trials could deliver a better quality of life and retain/build business in our communities.

Reply

If the Councillor could provide details on the proposed location, a review of the proposal to trial a car free afternoon/ day can be undertaken including consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Contact: Antonia Martin, Communication & Promotion Officer, Covid Mobility Team

Email: Antonia.martin@dublincity.ie

Q34 Councillor Vincent Jackson

To ask the Director of Services could consideration be given for the positioning of a zebra crossing near the junction of Blackditch Road / Le Fanu Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10 to aid the safe crossing of children to the hugely successful Play-ground / Skateboard Park. I have witnessed hundreds of young and not so young crossing this busy junction over the summer. I would worry with the traffic volumes, the potential for an accident here.

Reply

This matter has been referred to the Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) for attention. This issue will be examined by the traffic engineer who will report back to the Traffic Advisory Group. The councillor will be advised of the Traffic Advisory Groups findings in due course

Ref. No. 7022458

Contact: Niall O'Neill, South Central Area Engineer, Traffic Advisory Group

Email: niall.oneill@dublincity.ie

Q35 Councillor Vincent Jackson

Can the Director of Services please give me a position on the following:

Cars and vans everywhere; some parked for years on the public footpath, outside of homes on the public road etc. that will never move again rotting in front of our eyes. I have checked out the tax/insurance and many are out of date for many years. They can be owned by people whose neighbours might not feel too happy in asking that they be moved.

Reply

Complaints about abandoned vehicles come into us from a variety of sources. These include phone calls, CRM (customer relationship management) system, through our customer services centre, e-mails, the Gardaí, parking enforcement section, after-hours office, clamping company and information from staff.

After receiving a complaint the authorised officer would go out and view most of the vehicles based on the information received. Burnt out vehicles are passed on to our contractors for removal, without being viewed.

For the remaining vehicles we go out to look at them. We photograph them showing front, back and both sides of the car usually. We take close up photographs of any damage on the vehicle or inside the vehicle where possible. Photographs should also show whether the vehicle is unlocked. These photographs can be used as evidence in a court case if necessary. We use a powerful digital camera for that purpose and then save all the photos on to a PC.

Decisions are based on section 71 of the "Waste Management Act"(1996). Frequently information received will specify how long the vehicle is there and if the vehicle is in bad shape, and unable to be put back in a roadworthy condition for a reasonable sum (compared to the value of the vehicle) then the vehicle will be scrapped immediately. The authorised officer may make a decision based on the information presented to them and dispose of any vehicle that they believe is simply abandoned. In many cases this would be described as a vehicle of small value left in such a place or such a position as to give an indication that the vehicle is not wanted e.g. non display of tax and insurance, vehicle illegally parked, unsecured or parked in some place that would give no indication that anybody in the vicinity wanted the vehicle. In some cases if the vehicle is potentially able to be put back on the road, then we will tow in the car and write to the registered owner and follow the criteria in the act, this will usually mean that there is some indication that the vehicle is wanted and the vehicle would be deemed to have a value or be obviously wanted by an owner.

In most cases, looking at a vehicle may not give enough information, so we may contact motor tax to get the registered owners details and write to the registered owner.

It is not the responsibility of the local authority to deal with complaints of non-delivery of post. It is the responsibility of the seller of a vehicle to ensure that the transfer of ownership is done correctly. This may help them avoid a fine being issued for dumping of a vehicle under the "Litter Pollution Act"(1997), for cars removed. It is in the best interests of the owner of the vehicle to ensure that the vehicle is registered to them at the correct address (i.e. where the vehicle is normally kept), to ensure they do not have any problems with the removal of a vehicle they may want. In some cases e.g. foreign registration, a notice is put on the vehicle.

The abandoned vehicles section is not for people who want "their" parking space outside their house left free, or for parking enforcement. The Gardaí also have powers to deem a vehicle abandoned.

After the investigation, if a vehicle is deemed abandoned, Dublin City Council arrange its removal. If a vehicle is not actually abandoned, but untaxed and uninsured, the Gardaí are the enforcement authority.

Contact: Patricia O'Toole, Abandoned Vehicles Officer

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