



MANAGEMENT UPDATE

1. STRATEGY AND POLICY

EVENTS AND FILMING

The Outdoor Events Framework, and Outdoor Events Consultancy Framework is now available for use by all Dublin City Council Departments and Area Offices.

It is intended that the improvement works to the lights on the sails of Smithfield Square will be completed by the end Q2.

A preferred bidder has been identified to run the annual Bram Stoker Festival on behalf of Dublin City Council.

A preferred bidder has been identified to design a dedicated website to promote the Dublin City Council Dublin Winter Lights event.

SPORTS AND RECREATION / DUBLIN CITY SPORTS & WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

Sports and Recreation - A comprehensive review of DCC sports and recreation infrastructure has commenced, this will inform strategic sports infrastructural planning into the future. The purpose of the review is to look at the current infrastructure and to review the ever changing local demographics to ensure that we are future proofing our service delivery in a targeted manner.

DCSWP Strategic Review – In parallel with the infrastructural strategy a new Dublin City Sports Plan will be developed and aligned with the 2022 City Development Plan and will include a review of STRIDE and the Dublin City Partnership. The new Sport Ireland strategy for the LSP network across the country (currently in development) will also impact upon our own strategic review. Strategic review of all sports services to be carried out independently by an external consultant. Estimated timeline for review 6 months in total.

HUGH LANE GALLERY

Hugh Lane Gallery is open and welcoming visitors to our range of vibrant exhibitions while adhering fully to Covid guidelines.

LIBRARIES

Dublin City Libraries has successfully lead the implementation of a new National **library management system** which went live in March 2022. The **Spydus** cloud software provides a user-friendly experience for library users and will make it easier to manage the provision of books, ebooks and e magazines, and a wide range of online resources. DCL will also manage the National helpdesk for the new system. More information [here](#).

DCL will introduce the **My Open Library** initiative at Pembroke Library during May, greatly increasing public access to the library, with unstaffed hours available from 8:00am till 10:00am and 8:00pm till 10:00pm Monday to Saturday, and from 8am till 10pm on Sundays. Regular staffed service will continue during advertised hours at Pembroke Library.

PARKS, BIODIVERSITY & LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Biodiversity Action Plan

Strategy	Progress/Current Status	Next Stage
Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Graphic design and print being finalised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Publish plan in May 2022
New projects and ongoing actions under the Biodiversity Action Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. River bird monitoring, raptor protocols project and swifts projects starting in Q2 and Q3;2. Dublin wetlands – site plans being developed for Belcamp wetland;3. Fox in the City: equipment testing successful;4. Bird monitoring – 25 bird boxes installed in Q15. Macroalgal blooms - seaweed poster launched with Lord Mayor.6. River Liffey subtidal Invasive Alien Species project at second stage7. Biodiversity Officer met with 10 community groups in Q1 regarding local biodiversity projects8. Education and outreach hosted for wetlands day. Programme for Q2 and Q3 being finalised.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work with communities and swifts in Q22. Wetlands design to be completed3. Collars to be fitted to foxes in Q3 after breeding season4. Monitoring of boxes in Q25. Research ongoing in Q2 and project report Q36. Genetic analysis ongoing. Report in Q37. Setting up community information events and confirming projects8. Biodiversity Week in Q2; Rose Festival, Heritage Week and events in Q3; schools in Q4.

	9. Mink surveys of Dodder and Tolka Rivers booked for Q4.	9. Mink surveys along Tolka and Macroalgal blooms project ongoing in 2022.
Dublin Bay Biosphere	1. Conservation and Research Strategy completed by Biodiversity Officers.	1. Launch of strategy in Q2.

In accordance with a more sustainable policy with regard to amenity grass maintenance to support the establishment of wildflower rich swards, from May 2022 DCC will not be cutting grass margins in residential estates. Residents who wish to maintain a more manicured margin can do so. This policy is in keeping with the policy of every other local authority in the country.

Support for Tidy Towns and environmental groups who wish to contribute to the appearance of their neighbourhood streets will be available by contacting their local public domain officer. The maintenance of open spaces will remain the same albeit with a greater emphasis on establishing wildflower swards.

Dublin City Play Strategy

Following a citywide schools competition ‘Create a Title for the Dublin City Play Strategy, the winning title was created by Pupil from Francis St School Aged 10 years. The now titled

“Everywhere, any day, you can play” Dublin City Play Strategy 2022 – 2027 is currently at design and print stage and publication is due by end of May 2022.

2. INFORMATION RELEVANT TO SPC

EVENTS AND FILMING

Dublin City Council Events, in partnership with the Dublin City Council Arts Office intend to launch the first musical Fleadh event on Smithfield Square, June 18th/19th. Events are currently working with local business on the square and the Dublin City Council Irish language office to promote the event. The event is free with a family focused theme.

Dublin City Council Events have identified a preferred bidder through the outdoor events framework to facilitate free family focused events in city centre parks. The first parks to trial these events will be Merrion Square Park and Mountjoy Square Park.

SPORT AND RECREATION / DUBLIN CITY SPORTS & WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

Sports Ambassador Programme - The new Sports Ambassador programme will be formally launched by end of May 2022. The purpose of this initiative is to further inform communities, promote new programmes/ initiatives and highlight our commitment to delivery of services to all citizens from cradle to grave and ensure we continue to be actively focused on social inclusion.

Funding Secured - 7 Sports Capital Grants were secured to a total value of €377,844

DCSWP Governance Code - Work ongoing around strengthening the mechanisms of the DCSWP Advisory Board in addition to other key requirements of the Code. Declaration of compliance anticipated for Q3 2022.

Active Cities – Logo and brand identity has finally been developed and signed off. Recruitment process currently underway for Active Cities Officer (local lead for Dublin City). Meanwhile, work is ongoing in collaboration with the National Active Cities Lead Officer, Sport Ireland and the other relevant Local Sports Partnerships. A presentation on Active Cities will be given to the SPC at the May meeting.

HUGH LANE GALLERY

New Exhibitions:

Corot and Constable: Landscape Pioneers : Opened 9th April

This display celebrates the return of *Avignon from the West* (pictured) by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, which is one of the paintings from the Sir Hugh Lane Bequest shared with the National Gallery, London. It features Hugh Lane Gallery's exceptional collection of works by Corot alongside landscapes by John Constable and Charles François Daubigny.

Forthcoming Exhibitions:

Re-Discover Eva Gonzales: 1st June – 18th September 2022

Partnership with the National Gallery, London

We are delighted to present the first partnership exhibition organised by the National Gallery London and HLG as a result of the new Sir Hugh Lane Bequest Agreement (February 2021). Re-Discover Eva Gonzales is an exploration of the relationship between Manet and Eva Gonzales, his only pupil, her work and that of female contemporaries. The show sets to present the imposing and elusive *Portrait of Eva Gonzalès* in the context of women's artistic practice in 19th-century Paris, Gonzalès's development as a professional painter. It also explores Manet's career in 1870, his growing position as leader of a new school of painting, his longstanding engagement with the Old Masters, and his other portraits of artist and writer friends, from which his depiction of Gonzalès departs significantly.

Current Exhibitions

Current Exhibitions are listed on: <http://www.hughlane.ie>

Education

<http://www.hughlane.ie/lectures/forthcoming-lectures>

<https://twitter.com/TheHughLane>

<https://www.instagram.com/thehughlane/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thehughlane/>

Future Exhibitions

17th March – 10th July 2022

Patrick Graham is one of Ireland's most respected contemporary painters who emerged in the 1980s. In this period of uncertainty Patrick Graham, consolidated a position that was dedicated to a revival of painting and the search for existential meaning through aesthetic experience.

Using the fundamental language of painting he addressed not only the religious, political and social spheres of modern Ireland but also developed his practice into a considered and meditative representation of humanity's transient existence.

Commissioned writers: Richard Cork, Jörg Heiser and Kelly Grovier.

Works are in process of curatorial selection and loan requests have been sent.

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LIBRARIES

2022 DUBLIN Literary Award Winner Announcement: Now in its 27th year, the award is unique in its reader centred nomination process, involving libraries and librarians from around the world. Sponsored by Dublin City Council, it plays a vital role in highlighting Dublin's status as a UNESCO City of Literature. The winner will be announced at 1pm on the Speranza stage on Monday 23rd May by Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alison Gilliland, as part of International Literature Festival Dublin. The annual winner interview, hosted by Professor Michael Cronin (TCD), will take place at 6 pm on the same day on the Synge stage at the ILDF.

History on your doorstep: Last month, the fourth volume of '[History on your Doorstep](#)', a publication by the Historians-in-Residence was launched by Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland. Copies can be picked up, free of charge, from our branches and digital copies can be access on [BorrowBox](#).

City Librarian Mairead Owens recently joined Minister Roderic O'Gorman at Kevin Street Library for the announcement of the [First 5 My Little Library initiative](#). The '**My Little Library Book Bag**' initiative is available free for every child starting school in 2022 . Bags can be collected at any library and will include three books to help with starting school, a story card on going to the library and a postcard the child can send to their new teacher. When they join the library, they will get a library card and wallet to use.

Raheny Library has re-opened following temporary closure before Christmas for extensive refurbishment. A 50th birthday celebration is being planned for the Summer and the local community will be invited to attend

ARTS OFFICE

Building for Arts Use.

The former Filmbase building at Curved Street, the former Eden Restaurant at Meeting House Square. 7/8/9 Merchants Quay will all be the subject of Open Calls for Arts use in 2022.

13 units for Artists are planned at Artane Place formerly Butterly Park. An Open Call has concluded and allocation will take place in June 2022.

Arts Grants review is ongoing and will have an interim report in June.

In the North Central Area research will be available shortly on experiences of the Arts by local residents and will be presented to the North Central Area on June.

Public Art Strand 2 commissioning has requested further detail from two applicants from the Round 2 process.

PARKS, BIODIVERSITY & LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Bridgefoot Street Park Opening

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alison Gilliland formally opened Bridgefoot Street Park on Wednesday 4th May 2022. Working in collaboration with the local community and Area Councillors, Dublin City Council transformed a derelict site into a new sustainable community amenity which is accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

The park under construction since 2020 is approximately 1 hectare in size and has been developed utilising recycled materials such as calp, concrete, reclaimed stone and brick as aggregate to create pavement, seating and play spaces, reducing the amount of construction material going to landfill.

Features of the park include grassed and planted mounds; a performance area, play spaces, allotments, a community garden, a sculpture created by the participants of the Probationary Service Bridge Project and Bird Boxes provided by participants of the Liberties Training Centre. The community garden has developed from a number of local organisations and residents associations.

181 new trees have also been planted and the planting consists of a mixture of herbaceous and ground-cover species with some amenity grass and ornamental hedging but the overriding emphasis is on native wild-flower seed mix which will be sown into a mix of soil and recycled aggregate. These seeded areas will germinate, flower, self-seed and develop a naturalistic landscape which be unique to this park, creating a biodiversity-rich environment for pollinator bees other insects and wildlife in the city.

Draft Burial Strategy Update

The proposed actions of the (Draft) Burial Places Strategy are continually under progress and key milestones and deliverables are outlined below.

Burial Place's Strategy Table of Proposed Actions	
Actions	Progress/Delivered
Provide Columbarium Walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part 8 Approved (Donnybrook Graveyard Pilot Project)• Procurement/market testing underway
Conservation of Nethercross /St. Canice's Church Graveyard, Finglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMF funding received for Conservation Management Plan produced for funding drawdown November 2021 finalised and issued 3 May 2022 (PM City Archaeologist)• Local stakeholder consultation events completed in 2021. Children's Historian in Residence carried out engagement with local primary school pupils in 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdepartmental Steering Group meets regularly (2021 -2022) • Conservation works (P1) to be funded by CMF 2022 grants (preparation works underway) 85k awarded
Prepare Conservation Management Plans (CMP)	CMPS funded by the CMF 2021 grant and finalised; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluebell Graveyard, • Merrion ‘Bellevue’ Graveyard, • Church of St. Nicholas Within • St. Canice’s Graveyard
Devise a volunteer and community engagement programme	Pilot workshop on best practice maintenance with local stakeholders expected in Q3-Q4 2022
Heritage Interpretation & Wayfinding plans	Audio guides funded by CMF 2021 grant; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huguenot Cemetery Merrion Row, • Cabbage Garden • Jewish Cemetery, Ballybough Available on; https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/parks/new-parks-and-projects/conservation-interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation strategies also delivered in 2021 • Proposed audio guide for St. James’ Graveyard in 2022
Baseline ecological surveys	2 no. surveys completed (Merrion ‘Bellevue’ and Donnybrook Graveyards), St. Canice’s Graveyard survey underway (Spring & Summer 2022 surveys)
Management & Maintenance	Management and maintenance regimes will be based on recommendations of the Conservation Management Plans and ecological surveys etc.
Jewish Cemetery (Ballybough) Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 of conservation works to the former Mortuary House completed. • Audioguide live
St. James’s Graveyard - Implement a landscape scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the proposed heritage audioguide is the 2022 priority – funding awarded, consultants appointed and project commencement April 2022
Apply for grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful in award and reimbursement of 8 no. CMF 2021 grants (PM = Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services) • Successful in award of 2 no. CMF 2022 grants (PM = Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services)
BPS Delivery Mechanism – Archaeology, Conservation and Heritage Section	Assessing and managing the CMF grant funding and associated projects requires professional and administrative resource input from both the Archaeology, Conservation and Heritage Section of the Planning Property and

Community Monuments Fund Update

2022 Applications

On 19 April 2022, the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, announced the award of grants for a wide range of archaeological heritage projects under the department's 2022 Community Monuments Fund. The projects and associated grant funding that are directly pertinent to Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape are outlined below.

Site	Stream	Outcome	Applicant	Award	Reference
Clontarf Graveyard	1	Conservation Management Plan	DCC Parks	€0	–
St Canice's Graveyard, Finglas	1	Works	DCC Parks	€85,000.00	CMF22-1-DC001
Church of St Nicholas Within	1	Works	DCC Parks	€0	–
Clontarf Graveyard	2	Conservation Management Plan	DCC Parks	€0	–
St James's Church and Graveyard	3	Interpretative Audio Guide	DCC Parks	€10,762.50	CMF22-3-DC001

The combined grants awarded for DCC projects in 2022 totals €95,762.50.

While the Church of St. Nicholas Within project did not receive a CMF 2022 grant; Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services have allocated funds in 2022 for a continuation of the conservation works to St Nicholas Within as recommended by the CMP. Urgent repairs to the structure were completed, in Q4 2021.

St James's Church and Graveyard Interpretative Audio Guide

The aim of this project is to raise awareness of an important historic city site. The audio guide will enable visitors to the graveyard interested parties anywhere in the world to learn more about the people buried there and the development of the cemetery. The guide will enhance the knowledge of local people, many of whom have relatives/ancestors interred in the cemetery. Local community and stakeholders will be given the opportunity to contribute to the audio-guide, to inspire more interest both in Dublin 8 and the wider diaspora.

St Canice's Graveyard Finglas Works (Implementation of CMP)

This grant will fund urgent and essential works to conserve the church, boundary walls and adjacent mortuary monuments, which are in poor condition and at risk of further losses. The works will increase public access to the site and will implement the actions of St Canice's

Conservation Management Plan. The St Canice's Conservation Management Plan will be available online from May 2022.

Discovery Centre Update

A final round of consultations with local stakeholders has been undertaken in Q1, including input from DCC's Access Officer and Equality Officer. In addition to the Discovery Centre itself, the design team (led by Howley Hayes Cooney) is currently finalising details of the proposed Brent Goose feeding sites at the junction between Causeway Road and the Coast Road, proposed interpretation/viewing areas at the 'half-moons' midway along Causeway Road, and the proposal to demolish the existing centre and allow for dune restoration. The planning team (led by Brady Shipman Martin) are updating the EIA/AA reports to reflect this. Final reports are expected in 4-6 weeks, with submission of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála expected in early Q3.

Sculpture Dublin

Sculpture Dublin, a Dublin City Council initiative, developed by Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services and the Arts Office and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery, was established to raise awareness of the Dublin's sculptural heritage and to commission a series of new works in parks and public spaces city-wide.

Four of the six sculptures commissioned have been unveiled to date – in Bushy Park, Kildonan Park, Smithfield Square Lower and a temporary commission for the O'Connell Plinth at City Hall. The public engagement programme completed with International Sculpture Day on 30 April 2022. A brief update on all six commissions is available via the following link <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/new-commissions/>.

Playground Development – Capital Grant Funding

Funding was secured from Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) Capital Funding for Playground Development. The funding total of €16,541, will be allocated to Eamonn Ceannt 2022 Playground Upgrade to provide additional inclusive play opportunities which will include the installation of the newly developed 'We-Go' Wheel chair accessible swing - the overall cost of this play unit is approximately €44,000.

Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 - 2025 – Funding Update

Grants/Funding	Details of funding application	Next Stage
Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. NBAP fund for Las - applied for €29,914 for otter and mink projects2. Naturescapes - applied for EU funding as part of joint application with Trinity College Dublin and Durham University	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Awaiting results this week2. Update in Q2

23rd May 2022.