



Date: 28th September 2022

**To: The chairperson and members of
North Central Area Committee**

Meeting: 17th October, 2022.

**IOG UPDATE FOR THE
OCTOBER MEETING OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE**

IOG met on 23rd September 2022. The following items were discussed.

- **Illegal Dump-Belcamp Moatview**

- A High Level Group made up of members of the Senior Management Team has met regularly over the past 18 months and engaged intensively with An Garda Síochána, with the aim of bringing a solution to the City Council and local residents. The High Level Group is now seeking the support of Elected Members for the following 3-Stage approach to resolving the problem:
 - **Stage 1 – Engagement with other Statutory Agencies**
Following intense engagement with the Senior Management in An Garda Síochána, over recent months, agreement has been reached in relation to future support in our efforts to stop the illegal movement/dumping of waste in the area. This will include Gardaí being trained and authorised by the City Council under the Waste Management Act, which will enable them to take appropriate enforcement actions for illegal dumping. Training and the necessary authorisations will be completed within the next 4 to 6 weeks. Approval has been given for the installation of a new CCTV camera that will cover the area. This new camera will allow the site to be monitored on a 24-hour basis. It is anticipated that the new camera will be in place in approx. 6-7 weeks.
 - **Stage 2 – Removal of the Waste and Securing the Site**
The City Council is committing to the removal/treatment of the illegally dumped waste on the site.
CEO is happy to use emergency powers to speed up the process if supported by elected representatives
If not it is DCC's intention to seek approval at the November North Central Area Committee meeting to initiate a Part VIII that will allow us to remove the waste and construct a new boundary wall. In order to expedite the work of physically removing/treating the waste, we intend to go to tender for the appointment of a contractor to carry out all the necessary works in tandem with the Part VIII process. This should allow works to proceed shortly after the Part VIII is approved.
Hope to have contractor in place early 2023.
6 to 9 months of removal and build wall in tandem with removal.

- **Stage 3 – Redevelopment of the Site**

It is the Group's recommendation, following the removal of the waste and the construction of the new boundary wall, to seek expressions of interest from Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) to develop public housing on the site. This may require an amendment to the Development Plan. The Group is of the view that this is the best course of action to ensure the site does not return to its current state in the future. The Housing Department will be progressing this work while Stage 2 above is on-going in an effort to have an AHB selected and preliminary plans for housing developed by the end of 2023.

Estimated cost €10 m excluding construction of housing.

- **U Forest tree-planting project**

- Dr. Mary Lee Rhodes from TCD gave a presentation on Urban forests which are environmentally & socially beneficial. Trinity Centre for Social Innovation is collaborating with European partners to pilot an online 'U forest' training programme for EU citizens

As part of the 'U forest' project, there are funds and support available to hold a community tree-planting event in 2023

U forest' pilot training programme:

- 3-year project to develop and deliver European-based online training programme to develop awareness and skills related to urban forestry;
- University partners: TCD; Polytechnico di Milano; University of Barcelona; Transylvania University of Brasov;
- Launch of training programme in October 2022 – first cohort to complete in Aug 2023 (no fees for first year)
- In Autumn 2023 – *following an EU-wide promotion and communications strategy* – there will be U forest tree-planting events in each of the participating locations - Dublin; Milan; Barcelona and Brasov;
- Land is being sourced through local authorities or national / institutional land banks and the cost of the event (including trees) will be met through fund-raising coordinated by 'Wow Nature';
Local community volunteers are being sought to participate in the tree-planting event.
- Possible locations in Dublin for tree planting are Darndale, Croke Park, Trinity College, RDS.
- Requirements for tree planting are
 - Site for planting should be greater than 0.5 hectares in an urban or peri-urban area – suitability to be confirmed with 'Wow Nature';
 - Site preparation for tree planting is the responsibility of the landowner;
 - Site must be available for planting no later than 1 October 2023;
 - A forestry project manager/technician must be engaged for developing and realizing the forestry plan*
 - Appropriate trees for planting must be sourced (this will be paid for through fund-raising by 'Wow Nature').
 - Event planning, community engagement and promotion will be led by U forest team (TCD), but can be coordinated with local authority / landowner.

- **Communications**

- All information must be emailed to the email address info@darndaletogether.ie
 - Website is ready to go live.
 - Draft Newsletter will be available mid-October.

○ **Work Plan**

- HSE noted that all the components that make up the Healthy Communities programmes that are funded by the HSE are up and running.
 - Finalised the process and funding around a community Team leader who would support people being trained through the CE programme.
- NSP have been granted additional grant income for a new programme called “Empowering communities”-coordinator has been appointed. Five on CE and 2 core staff based in The Bell building.
 - Education Team are exceptionally busy providing assistance to completing Suzy applications. More people applying for grants.
- Creative Places hosted events for Culture Night
- Dublin City Council noted the following:
 - Litter warden survey re bin providers is ongoing.
 - Public Realm Plan.
 - Anti-Dumping Initiative at Primrose Grove is near completion.
 - The large road sweeper cleans the roads in Darndale on a Monday each week.
 - A transit van tends to the entire area on a daily basis emptying litterbins, taking away illegal dumping and any burned materials.
 - The compact sweeper goes in 4 days a week.
 - A deep clean happens approx. every 8 weeks.
 - Belcamp Lane & Newtown Court is cleaned weekly – focus on litter gathering in the grass verges etc.
 - The Area 52 Crew also do great work litter picking and tidying up the area.
 - Halloween-Public Domain, Housing and Parks have met.
 - Work with the Gardaí-Visit all Industrial Estates ,businesses in the area
 - DCC have engaged Creative Places, Event Management Team-Darndale Together Halloween Festival- 4pm to 7pm. 7pm to 7.15 pm fireworks display will take place in the park.
 - Community Representative Forum and Darndale Together Safety Forum well attended.
 - City Neighbourhoods Awards for all groups took place. Darndale had one application. Hope to increase numbers from DBM area in 2023.
 - Providing Office space for Local Drug Tasks force and Creative Places.

Dympna McCann
Administrative Officer
North Central Area