



MINUTES OF THE WOMENS COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2022

1 **Update on new Park Lighting Policy - Les Moore** 4

Les Moore provided an update (see document attached) on the new Park Lighting Policy.

Noted that suburban parks don't typically have public lighting unless there is a through way or a route to a pitch i.e. it is provided where there is an essential need for it.

A discussion took place on anti-social behaviour in parks. Les pointed out that the safest parks are the ones that are used a lot and he commented on the success of Bridgefoot Street Park and the redesigned Edenmore Park.

Les to check with the World Urban Parks Network regarding policies for lighting parks.

2 **Minutes of meeting held 8th September 2022**

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Cat O'Driscoll and seconded by Councillor Deirdre Heney. Agreed.

3 **Announcement of Safety Audit dates and call for 'Team Lead' for each session**

It was agreed to hold a safety audit on the evening of Wednesday 9th November starting at Connolly Station and including the Talbot Street and Eden Quay areas.

Deputy Lord Mayor Darcy Lonergan to circulate copies of the questionnaires and arrange for hi-vis jackets. Members of the Women's Committee were encouraged to bring 1-2 members of the public who use the route. It was also suggested to reach out to some female journalists and invite them to accompany them on the audit.

Members will then be in a position to carry out safety audits in their own areas at a later date. Cllr Cat O'Driscoll reported that a meeting with Richard Shakespeare is being set up and a deadline for safety audits could be considered after this takes place.

4 **Bristol Nights**

'Bristol Nights' and the Women's Night Safety Charter were discussed.

It was suggested that some of the remaining funding be used to invite Carly Heath to Dublin to meet with the Women's Committee. Carly is the Night Time Economy Advisor to Bristol City Council and it was also suggested that a trip to Bristol could be arranged. Deputy Lord Mayor Darcy Lonergan to go back to Natalie with figures etc.

Cllr Donna Cooney reported that the Economic Development SPC had a working group on the night time economy and a report had been produced. Cllr Cooney agreed to circulate that report as a base to work on. Cllr Cooney to also liaise with Richard Shakespeare regarding the matter.

5 **Discussion and Decision on Mentoring Events**

5 - 6

It was agreed to hold two mentoring events and that Comhairle na nÓg would be invited to one of them. Deputy Lord Mayor Darcy Lonergan's proposal is attached. She encouraged Committee members to come up with their own ideas for mentoring events and to send a one page proposal to her.

6 **Proposed Meeting Dates for 2023**

- 19th January 2023
- 2nd March 2023
- 20th April 2023
- 8th June 2023
- 27th July 2023
- 21st September 2023
- 16th November 2023

Proposed dates agreed.

7 **A.O.B.**

'Political Mentoring' to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

'Safety in the Chamber' to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Deputy Lord Mayor Darcy Lonergan

Chairperson

Thursday 3 November 2022

Attendance:

Members:

Darcy Lonergan (Chairperson)
Mary Callaghan
Mary Freehill
Eimer McCormack

Members:

Donna Cooney
Alison Gilliland
Cat O'Driscoll

Members:

Anne Feeney
Deirdre Heney

Officers

Natalie Leonard

Sandra Walley

Apologies:

Deirdre Conroy

Public Lighting in Parks.....Draft Policy Document

In a well planned residential area the parks and open spaces would be out in front of the houses with road frontage so that there is 'natural surveillance' by the residents and anyone passing including the gardai. The smaller open spaces are then lit by street lighting and children can use them until whatever time the parents wish. That is the norm in most suburban neighbourhoods.

In the inner city (within the canals) there is an acknowledged deficit of green space, the parks are designed as relatively small 'urban' parks and so the spaces are in much greater demand into the evening. Any new parks in this area are not enclosed and most include some public lighting.

Greenways along canals and river valleys which support cycling and pedestrians are commonly lit after dark however where they traverse a park site specific consideration has to be given to the route and the provision of lighting. Typically this is a site specific solution and links into a Share With Care/Roinn Le Curam park greenway.

Suburban parks typically do not have public lighting unless there is a 'throughway' to public transport which has no alternative lit route or there is a sports or other park facility in the park that requires access after dark. The rationale for this is that the lighting of a pavement would give a false sense of security that walking in a park after dark is safe. In addition, there are climate considerations with regard to minimising unnecessary consumption and energy use.

It is evidenced in recent research that the biodiversity of a suburban park is impacted by public lighting and night time use and there is a growing desire for dark skies. Biodiversity conservation and dark skies are both increasingly acknowledged as being important for the mental health and well-being of city dwellers.

LM

Mentoring idea: Dublin City Leadership

Title: Showcasing leadership in Dublin

Audience: Young people aged 18, but also younger. Comahire Na Og, Foroige and cllr. Can invite some young people from area's.

Goal: To highlight the various opportunities young people have in leadership.

Event Format: The event will be a series of 15-minute panel discussions from various international leadership areas with all female ambassadors, along with speed networking. This will be followed by table discussions over tea and biscuits.

Panel Discussions:

Dublin City Council: Showcasing female leadership within DCC, and the importance of women within councils. Highlighting the opportunities young people can have within DCC and discussing how women are an important part of it.

Community Leadership: Discussions with female leaders from all aspects of our community, Tidy Towns, community GAA clubs, residents and more. This will showcase how women play very important roles within all aspects of our community, but also within these leadership roles. These key leaders will discuss the importance of having women in these roles but also the opportunities which can be achieved for young people within the community.

Speed Networking:

Two lines of chairs facing each other, 2-minute discussion with the person facing across from them, move up one chair when the bell rings. Panel members and leaders to possibly stay for these discussions, in order for young people to ask questions and hear one on one about women in leadership.

Possible prompts:

- What type of leadership do you see in your community?
- Where do you feel women are seen less in leadership?
- What were the difficult barriers you faced as a woman in leadership?
- What motivated you to become a leader?
- What advice would you give to young women wanting to enter these leadership positions?

Many of these prompts can be brought over to the table discussions

Table Discussions:

Tables will be set up with people from the panels and communities, young people can move around and chat with people they wish and continue the conversation which may follow from the prompts.

* possible people showcasing how young people can enter these areas, flyers, and booklets on the areas in which panel members are.