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## Report on Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund for the Irishtown, Ringsend & Sandymount Catchment Area

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### 1 Introduction:

A Community Gain Liaison Committee and a Community Gain Fund were established for the catchment area of Irishtown, Ringsend, and Sandymount, in accordance with Planning Permission, reference 29S.EF2022 and Industrial Emissions Directive Licence, reference W0232-01, granted by An Bord Pleanála and the Environmental Protection Agency respectively, for the Dublin Waste to Energy Project in 2017.

### 2 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee

In line with planning condition no. 2 of the above planning approval, a Community Gain Liaison Committee ('the Committee') was established. The Committee has responsibility for the administration of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund and in accordance with its terms of reference developed the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme .

The current membership of the Committee is as follows:

**Table 1** Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee Membership.

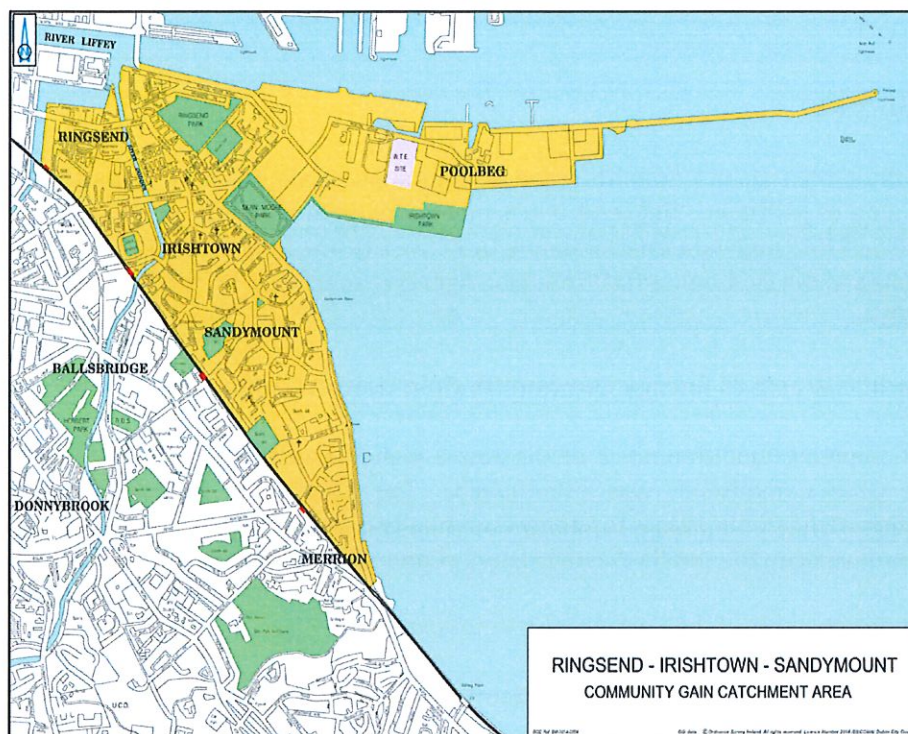
Peter McLoone	Chairperson
Eimear McCormack	Community Representative
Anthony McDonald	Community Representative
David Turner	Community Representative
Cllr. James Geoghegan	Elected Representative
Cllr. Dermot Lacey	Elected Representative
Cllr. Paddy McCartan	Elected Representative
Kieran Mullins, Project Director, Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd.	Contractor Representative
Brian Hanney, South East Area Manager	DCC Official
James Nolan, Executive Manager	DCC Official

### 3 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund.

In line with condition no.3 of the above planning approval, a Community Gain Fund was established. The Community Gain Fund provides financial assistance to community based sporting clubs and groups, voluntary and charitable organisations, educational and religious institutions, residents associations and arts societies for the development of recreational, educational, environmental,

community, heritage and cultural projects in the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount catchment area, as defined on the map in figure 1 below.

**Figure 1** Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund Catchment Area.



The Community Gain Fund comprises a once-off capital contribution equivalent to 3% of the capital cost of the Dublin Waste to Energy facility and an annual contribution of €1 per tonne of waste accepted for thermal treatment at the plant. The annual contribution is updated in accordance with the consumer price index and equates to approximately €600K per annum.

Since 2014, circa €13.1m has been credited by the developer, Dublin Waste to Energy Limited, to the Community Gain Fund.

#### **4 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme.**

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee developed the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme.

The Projects Grant Scheme is an agreed process whereby local community groups, voluntary and charitable organisations, environmental and arts associations, educational institutions and sporting societies are invited to submit project proposals that are evaluated and assessed by the Committee in accordance with the Scheme's conditions and criteria. The amount of funding, if any, to be contributed towards a proposed project is at the Committee's discretion.

The projects selected are those that will enhance the local area of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount, develop and enrich the available community facilities and services, seek to fulfil a genuine need within the community, provide maximum community benefit and be viable and sustainable in the long-term.

The Projects Grant Scheme is funded by Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd. and the administration and disbursement of funds is managed and facilitated by Dublin City Council.

The Committee has run five Schemes to date, one in 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023. Thus far, a total of 164 community groups, schools, religious and sporting organisations in the Ringsend, Irishtown and Sandymount catchment area have received grant funding of circa €12.2m.

In respect of the 2016 Scheme, 56 applications were received requesting grant funding in excess of circa €35 million. The Committee approved 32 grant applications to the value of circa €4.8m.

With regard to the 2017 Scheme, 48 grant applications were received requesting funding in excess of circa €11 million. The Committee allocated circa €4.3m to 35 approved projects.

With reference to the 2019 Scheme, 51 applications were received requesting grant funding in excess of circa €7m. The Committee approved 38 grant applications and allocated circa €1.7m in grant funding.

With regard to the 2021 Scheme, 46 grant applications were received requesting funding in excess of circa €1.6 million. The Committee approved 28 projects and allocated circa €500K in funding.

The Projects Grant Scheme 2023 was open for applications between the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023. 47 applications were received requesting grant funding totalling circa €4.28m. The Committee held several grant assessment meetings where each grant application was carefully evaluated against the Scheme's general conditions and criteria. After detailed discussions and deliberations, the Committee approved 31 grant applications and awarded grant funding totalling circa €900K.

**Table 2** shows the number of grant applications approved per scheme with reference to the amount approved per scheme.

<b>Projects Grant Scheme</b>	<b>Total No. Approved</b>	<b>Total Amount Approved</b>
2016	32	€4.8m
2017	35	€4.3m
2019	38	€1.7m
2021	28	€500K
2023	31	€900K
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>€12.2m</b>

## 5 Overview of Grant Applications Approved 2016 - 2023.

On receipt of the grant applications, the Committee divides them into three categories, namely, those requesting amounts less than €20K, those requesting amounts of between €20K and €100K and those seeking amounts in excess of €100K. The Committee carefully evaluates each application against the Scheme's general conditions and criteria.

Table 3 shows the number of grant applications approved in each category across the five Schemes with reference to the total amount approved in each category.

Categories	<€20,000	€20K - €100K	>€100K	Grand Total
Total No. Approved by Category	75	66	23	164
Total Amount Approved by Category	€575K	€3.065m	€8.56m	€12.2m

To date 23 grant applications requesting amounts greater than €100K have been approved by the Committee and the total amount of funding awarded in this category is circa €8.5m. Some notable projects in this category include the following:

- The refurbishment and modernisation of the clubhouse at Railway Union Sports Club. This project received €1.1m in grant funding.
- The renovation of Ringsend and Irishtown Community Centre to which the Community Gain Fund contributed €1.4m.
- Ringsend College built a science laboratory with their €120K grant funding.
- With the €180K provided by the Community Gain Fund the Irish Nautical Trust purchased the boat named 'The Liffey Sweeper'. The boat has a dual purpose acting as a river cleaner to remove floating debris and to allow the marine training apprenticeship project to commence.
- Enable Ireland Sandymount renovated their hydrotherapy pool with the €200K provided by the Community Gain Fund.
- The extension to Irishtown Stadium. This project was undertaken by Crusaders Athletic Club and St. Patrick's CYFC. The overall cost of the project amounted to circa €2.75m to which the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund contributed €2.02m, with the remaining funding being provided by the two clubs and a contribution from Dublin City Council.
- In collaboration with Dublin City Council, Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association constructed a new playground in Seán Moore Park with the €227K received from the Community Gain Fund.
- The restoration of St. Patrick's Church stained glass windows was made possible by the €188K granted by the Community Gain Fund. These windows were originally created and installed by Harry Clarke Studios and Earley's Studios and are magnificent pieces of Irish heritage.

66 grant applications requesting amounts between €20K and €100K have been approved by the Committee and the total amount of funding awarded in this category is in excess of €3m. Some notable projects in this category include the following:

- Ringsend and District Response to Drugs used their 45K grant funding to upgrade their Community Bus. The new bus has enabled them to continue and to extend their vital outreach services in the Ringsend and Irishtown area.
- In association with Dublin City Council, Cambridge FC resurfaced the astro turf football pitch in Ringsend Park. The total project costs amounted to €90K. The Community Gain Fund contributed €75K towards this worthy project with the remaining balance financed by DCC.

Over the five Schemes a total of €575K has been awarded to 75 grant applications requesting amounts less than €20K. Although the quantum awarded has been smaller, the difference the grant has made to these recipients has in no way been less impactful. Some notable projects in this category include the following:

- With the €17K they received from the Community Gain Fund, The Lir National Academy of Dramatic Art ran their highly successful and beneficial 'Theatre for Teenagers' programme in Ringsend College.
- Ringsend Irishtown Tidy Towns Environment Group used the €2K provided by the Community Gain Fund to completely transform Ben's Lane in Irishtown. They turned what was once a public eyesore into a clean, accessible area that the community of Irishtown could be proud of.
- The Brabazon Trust in Sandymount received €15K to purchase and install an upgraded projection system in the communal area of the nursing home. This system has facilitated the live streaming of local, national and global events, thereby enabling all residents to participate and integrate fully both socially and culturally with the wider community.

Of the 164 projects approved to date there has been a comparatively equal distribution of grant funding awarded across the catchment area with Ringsend and Sandymount both receiving circa €5m and the smaller catchment area of Irishtown in receipt of around €2.5m.

**Table 4** shows the total number of grant applications approved by area with reference to the amount approved by area.

Area	Total No. Approved by Area	Total Amount Approved by Area
Irishtown	19	€2.5m
Ringsend	89	€4.8m
Sandymount	56	€4.9m
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>€12.2m</b>

The 164 grant recipients were representative of a broad range of sectors within the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount community as shown in Table 5

**Table 5** shows the total number of grant applications approved by sector with reference to the total amount approved in each sector.

Sector	Total No. Approved by Sector	Total Amount Approved by Sector
Sport & Recreation	63	€6.5m
Community	44	€2.87m
Education & Training	39	€2.5m
Heritage	3	€185K
Environment	8	€60K
Arts	7	€85K
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>€12.2m</b>

Worth noting is that the sport and recreation sector has received €6.5m, which is the largest quantum of grant funding. This figure includes the €2.02m awarded to the Irishtown Stadium extension project and the €1.1m awarded to Railway Union Sports Club and is reflective of the high volume of eligible grant applications submitted by sporting clubs and organisations within the catchment area.

The types of projects awarded grant funding across the five Projects Grant Schemes has been diverse. They are broadly categorised as shown in Table 6.

You will note that there has been in excess of €8m granted towards the upgrade of community, recreational and educational services. This figure includes refurbishment and renovation projects carried out by sporting organisations, clubs, schools and community centres across the catchment area.

**Table 6** shows the total number of grant applications approved by project type with reference to the total amount approved by project type.

Project Type	Total No. Approved by Project Type	Total Amounts Approved by Project Type
Construction/Development of New Facilities & Services	16	€1.77m
Renovation/Upgrade of Existing Facilities & Services	65	€8.5m
Purchase of Equipment or Resources	46	€900K
Community Education Projects	13	€400K
Community Arts Projects	9	€80K
Local Heritage Projects	7	€300K
Local Environmental Projects	8	€250K
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>€12.2m</b>

## 6 The Impact of the Dublin Waste to Energy Grant Funding.

In summary, the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund and Projects Grant Scheme has had a hugely positive impact on the local communities of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount. Grant recipients have used their grant funding to increase their capacity and develop and improve their services and activities. The funding has enabled recipients to reach more people in their local community, thereby increasing accessibility and inclusivity and enhancing community engagement. The funding has assisted many recipients create and provide new services or activities and reach new members.

Grant recipients have also used the grant funding to improve places and spaces within their community and in doing so cultivate a stronger sense of community pride, identity and social connectedness.

Some feedback from grant recipients on the positive impacts the grant funding has had on their organisation, club, school etc. and on the local community of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount.

- *“The Grant supported us with the much needed renovation works to our hydrotherapy pool in Sandymount, and also allowed us to purchase specialised equipment which supports people with disability/support needs to access the pool.” **Enable Ireland, Sandymount.***
- *“The funding has had a major positive impact on Stella Maris Rowing Club. Were we once had a damp cold single-storey building that nobody wanted to use, we now have a state-of-the-art facility. The first major project in the 2016 grant really helped us transform the club into a club for all ages and gender and a club that is used all year round seven days a week. All grants received from Dublin Waste to Energy Scheme have helped the club to grow with new members joining year on year.” **Stella Maris Rowing Club, Ringsend.***
- *“We have had an upsurge in membership as the facility has attracted many new members. Specifically, the indoor space has allowed us to offer a Little Athletes program to 5-8 year olds to take place in a warm and dry facility and each course has been filled out very quickly. We have also had Couch to 3k groups throughout 2022 and the facility allows us to offer refreshments and a place for those signing up to meet new friends. In addition, we have been able to offer other offerings such as Strength and Conditioning classes, lectures by nutritionists, CPR classes etc.” **Crusaders AC, Irishtown Stadium.***
- *“there has been a very enthusiastic reception from the church community to the restoration of the organ in Sandymount. In addition, and somewhat unexpectedly, the professional organ playing have been even more enthusiastic with countless requests from practitioners to come and play on the instrument, given its huge historical significance.” **St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Church, Sandymount.***
- *“it helped us with an equipment spend that brought the ground up to international standing. We are a home to the Irish Women’s Cricket Team and have hosted big fixtures on the ground. **YMCA Cricket Club, Sandymount.***
- *“this heritage project could not have been completed without the support of this grant.” **St. Patrick’s Church, Ringsend.***

