

To the Members of the Protocol Committee



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## The Women's Committee Annual Report 2023

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The Women's Committee, a subcommittee of Protocol convened for 6 meetings in 2023. 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023. All meetings were held remotely via Zoom at 8 a.m.

The Women's Committee following a successful application for Department funding, Increasing the Participation of Women and Diversity in Local Government 2022, were awarded €11,000 funding in November 2022. As a result, the committee were able to focus and use funding throughout the year as follows:

### **International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

A networking event, hosted in the Oak Room of the Mansion House, and focused on actively supporting the retention of our existing female councillors. We targeted our invitations towards key women within each of the electoral areas, such as resident groups, Tidy Towns, local transport & climate activists, local sports clubs and representatives from the youth sector. Some entertainment was provided by youth dancers from the Theatre Learning Centre, Singer Niamh Bury and an all-female Ukulele Band - SNUG.



### **Safety Audits**

Following on from the previous year's activities, audits were extended in to 2023. Again, the committee focused on safety for women in the City with Safety Audits carried out in the City Centre, Cabra Glasnevin, and Kimmage Rathmines areas. All findings and recommendations were submitted to senior staff in the Area Offices for implementation and action.



Safety Audit, Talbot Street, Dublin 1

## **Training Workshops & Capacity Training**



### **Pocket Park Workshop**

A training session on Greening Strategies and Pocket Parks' was held at the Wood Quay Venue, Dublin 8 on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The focus of this workshop was so our Councillors could be more equipped to answer an increase of queries in this area from constituents. The event was most worthwhile with presentations provided by Suzanne O'Connell & Christina Todd, Executive Landscape Architect from our Parks Biodiversity and Landscape Services and Catherine Cleary and her team from Pocketforest.ie, a community based initiative that is doing great work in regenerating nature by transforming small local green spaces.



### **Social media training:**



A training session took place on 6th October in the Richard O'Carroll room provided by Joanne Sweeney, a former broadcast journalist, now a published author, passionate podcaster and founder of Digital Training Institute. This full day session focused on 3 main social media platforms of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram on how Councillors could best promote their platforms in the following areas:

- What platforms for what audience
- How to increase followers
- How to design catchy posts

### **Dementia Carers Appreciation Evening**

The Women's Committee hosted a Dementia Inclusive Carers social evening on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 in the Oak Room, Mansion House. A fun event, showing appreciation for carers and creating awareness that they are not alone. The MC for the event was Karen Meenan, Limelight Communications and entertainment was provided by the Forget-me-nots choir and scarf dancer Olwyn Lyons.

A panel discussion took place where Mike Hanrahan (Stockton's Wing) and choir members Kate Byrne and Nora Owens – spoke about their own experiences on caring for loved ones with Dementia.



### **Local Level Women's Caucus Workshop**

Natalie Leonard, Administrative Officer, Chief Executives Department on behalf of the Women's Committee attended a Local Level Women's Caucus Workshop, in Bloomfield's Hotel Mullingar on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 hosted by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. Ciara McHugh, National Women's Council of Ireland, Sinead Doody, Women's Regional Caucus and Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council provided presentations on the day which included research and guidelines for Local Authorities and Women Councillors. The workshop was a positive networking event, which also provided an opportunity for Local Authorities that currently have existing caucus/committees, like ourselves, to share knowledge and experience. Particular focus was on increasing caucus creation following Local Elections 2024.

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**Cllr. Darcy Lonergan**  
**Chair of The Women's Committee**