

Minutes of the Climate Action Subcommittee Meeting held on 10th May 2021, Via MS Teams

In attendance:

Cllr. Byrne	Sabrina Dekker	Robert Moss
Cllr. Costello	Maryann Harris	Chris Carroll
James Nolan	Liam Bergin	Cliona Kelliher

Minutes of meeting on 15th March agreed.

Sabrina Climate Bill update - Climate Bill is progressing. In terms of us (Council), there will be 18 months from when the Bill comes into place and then we will have 12 months to complete. Variation to be considered in terms of our own Climate Bill as it's both adaptation and mitigation - point 10.

Timelines - we would be starting our own plan quarter 3 2023, so there may be overlap and it might be worth discussing with the Dept.

Worth considering a direct meeting with the Minister to discuss.

Action: Cllr. Byrne will try to arrange within the next few weeks.

Action: Sabrina will circulate document mentioned.

Cllr. Costello - short deadline to make comments on Executives report.

N.B. Liam to check re direct discussion with Minister as it may be better to follow a process through the CCMA.

Question from RM - National Climate Action Plan - deadline next week - should we make a submission as a group?

Cllr. Byrne commented that as many individual responses as possible is important.

Robert suggested that it might be an opportunity to send in a technical submission and address the funding issue in this way.

Sabrina will put together a submission - do we have the capacity to submit as a committee?

LB - if Sabrina could put a draft together to submit to Chair. Agreement re this point.

Action: Sabrina to compile draft for Chair.

Action: CB will circulate briefing notes and FAQ

Maryann Presentation re Nature Based Solutions

Key points (See presentation for overall picture) -

- Interlinkage between biodiversity and climate change
- We were one of the first local authorities to implement a biodiversity plan.
- Habitat restoration was the thing that most people who were surveyed wanted.
- To be finished by June so that it can go into City Development Plan draft
- New Tree strategy in progress.
- SUDs strategy to be released soon.
- New invasive alien species plan in progress.

Action: Circulate Maryann presentation and link to tree map. (Cliona)

Question from Robert - Dublin Green Capital application and connection with biodiversity strategies and plans. EU biodiversity strategy 2030 - much more urban focused than Irish national strategy.

Maryann key points in response:

Urban greening strategies - this is something that Parks have been doing for some time.

Green City Accord which all cities should join - Maryann contacted the Lord Mayor and relevant depts.

Key theme is 'Dublin as a Green Capital' We need proper funding to do the research necessary to record biodiversity.

We have a unique perspective as the capital city and this is how our biodiversity plan differs from other L.As

If we are not a Green City, funding will be lost.

If Dublin posits itself as the lead authority on climate action, it would have a greater impact nationally and if we won the award this would be positive in this endeavor.

Maryann - each local authority gets the exact same amount of funding which is €16,000, which is not adequate and does not reflect the differing needs of different local authorities.

JC - will public consultation be in June? Full plan in October.

JC - Greening strategy - low tree cover within inner city. Increased projects within the inner city would help to address this. However, resources are lacking in this area. Pollinator friendly initiatives - what

engagement can we have with communities? Also graveyards are a potential greening source. Tolka river - wild and undisturbed area will be developed in the next few years. Can the Tolka development be managed with biodiversity in mind?

Maryann - tree coverage issue is now known and mapped. This is a complete baseline now, which can be used for policy decisions. Tree project inner city - Gerry O'Connell, Jamie Cudden, Peter Leonard - Post covid resilience fund application has gone in. Social justice aspect an important factor in a greening strategy. Funding application can be used again for other funding applications and would be good for committee to look at.

There has been construction in developments which precludes future tree planting and it will be costly to resolve this.

We were the first Council to have biodiversity plan and pollinator actions will tie in with that. Graveyards are an important biodiversity source and can act as time capsules in old cities. Species that reflect cultural and economic activities of the past.

Specific action re Tolka - Dublin City Council has to ensure no biodiversity loss as this is a national requirement. However the approach will be more positive as it will aim for biodiversity gain.

Building for biodiversity - reframing the discussion.

Cllr Byrne - Green party are fighting for funding to be directed to climate projects.

SD Community update - Eat the Streets ongoing and help needed with social media sharing. Meal kits will be available as competition prizes. 11th - 16th June will be the festival program. Walking tour will be part of the program, which will highlight heritage. We are also encouraging kids to map their streets.

Two funding applications weren't successful, however one application is still in the running. Kairos was not successful but may be submitted again.

Campaigners with NUI Galway. Creative Ireland Climate Action call - Ray Yeates is leading on that with Sabrina's input.

Action: Climate Action Plan/Climate Conversation - get comms to broadcast a reminder. SD

Development plan update - we are weak on the adaptation side but strong on mitigation. Challenge will be that we don't know what carbon budget is which is difficult with timings of plans.

Adaptation - 4 volume work (Paul Nolan/Conor Murphy)

Strategic energy zones, strategic master plan - moving towards a zero carbon future - James, incorporating climate action into all strategy.

JC Comments from Councillors re development plan. Is it possible to have brief re climate action prepared in order for Councillors to be fully informed? We could push for some of the issues that have arisen at the sub-committee.

SD Adaptation measures need to be strengthened and to understand the cascading effect and connectivity between extreme weather events etc. and other systems. Dublin has a lot of key infrastructure along the coast and how do we protect that. Population growth provides challenges to carbon reduction. All strategy should be viewed within the climate change lens.

Sabrina can read Chief Executive's report and provide a brief summary of what would help to highlight key issues.

Cllr. Costello asked if that could be sent before Friday

No SPC Reports

No AOB

Next Meeting Date 13th September