# Question to the Chief Executive

### South East Area Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Q.1 <u>Councillor Dermot Lacey</u>

To ask the Manager why the waste bin was removed from the corner of Gilford Road and Park Avenue, Sandymount and if he will consider putting it back.

#### Q.2 Councillor James Geoghegan

To ask the Area Manager if he can confirm that the Kildare Place National School on Rathmines Road Upper shall be granted a safe school zone initiative and if he can confirm when this is scheduled to be installed.

## Q.3 Councillor James Geoghegan

To ask the Area Manager if he can investigate the tree at 7 Cowper Gardens, Rathmines, Dublin 6 where fungus is growing out of it and it may need to be felled.

### Q.4 <u>Councillor Dermot Lacey</u>

To ask the Manager if the footpaths in the Ramleh Close area could be examined and listed for repair/replacement as requested in email submitted with this question.

"Finally, on behalf of some of my even more elderly neighbours I would be grateful if you could make representations to the City Council Executive about replacing the pavements in Ramleh Close. The original pavements date back to when the houses were built (late 60's?). They are in very poor condition and a hazard to the older residents who walk to avail of public transport, shopping, churchgoing etc."

#### Q.5 <u>Councillor Dermot Lacey</u>

To ask the Manager if he will arrange for this pothole to be repaired:

There is a large pothole dip in the footpath outside Merrion Cricket Club on Anglesea Road where the tarmac fill in from Irish water has sunk. There have been numerous falls here over the last two weeks including a bad one on Sunday with an elderly man taking a very heavy fall. Is there any chance this can get priority?

#### Q.6 <u>Councillor Dermot Lacey</u>

To ask the Manager if there are any plans to improve safety for pedestrians in the vicinity of the Rathmines Road Upper and Church Road junction and if not to refer same to the Traffic Department for action.

#### Q.7 Councillor James Geoghegan

To ask the South East Area manager if the issues raised in the email below from the principal of St Mary's School could be addressed.

"I am extremely concerned at the delay in repositioning of the yellow box on Mount Eden Road. I see that double yellow lines were continued opposite the entrance to the school but the yellow box remains in the same location. The positioning of the yellow box down from the entrance to the school is extremely dangerous. Observing the children entering and egressing the school since the yellow box was installed has confirmed my thoughts on the ill-positioning of same. The children egress the school campus and naturally walk straight across the road, even though the school warden is positioned further down the road at the yellow box. I have been trying to supervise the crossing of the road daily but with the best will in the world, this is sustainable. I cannot stand over the current location of the yellow box from a health and safety perspective – the situation is extremely dangerous! It took almost 3 months for the installation of the yellow box from my initial approach to the DCC in August 2021. Should the repositioning of the yellow box extend to a similar time-line, I fear there will be an accident on the road.

I ask that you do everything in your power to arrange for the repositioning of the yellow box at the entrance as a matter of urgency.

I am happy to have a site visit at school opening and closing time."

## Q.8 Councillor Dermot Lacey

To ask the Manager if he can give an update on the research into the pollutants going into the Elm Park stream and subsequently into Dublin Bay at Merrion Strand as previously reported.

## Q.9 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager ascertain the condition of the water pipes on Lombard Street West? This report also to include what pipes are made of lead that are feeding the houses in this area of Lombard Street and St Kevin's Parade.

### Q.10 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager issue a full report as to what works are taking place on the historical structure of St Nicholas Within the walls at Christchurch adjacent to the Peace Garden?

# Q.11 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager issue a full report with regards the advertising screen that is now in place on Wilton Terrace beside Wilton Park on the Grand Canal? This is a massive screen which appears to interfere and create a hazard for passing motorists. Many of the residents in the area complained that they were not consulted with regards this big screen. This report to include all documentation and communication between DCC various departments and those who own this screen and also the decisions to place this massive advertisement screen in this highly protected area.

# Q.12 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager issue a full report with regards the hoarding that is now placed in the entrance to the Rates Office on Castle Street? This is a grade 1 listed building, probably one of the most unique in the city. To simply board up this important structure in this manner is an absolute disgrace. The place looks derelict and vacant and this immediately needs to be addressed. Bearing in mind the issues that emanated from the Cobblestone Bar and the destruction of culture within our city, it would appear to me that this example of the Rates Office and the manner in which DCC Conservation Office have treated this building at present is a worst-case scenario. Dublin City Council needs to redress this situation and show proper respect for the city's heritage buildings.

# Q.13 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager issue a full report with regards the intention by the Peter McVerry Trust and the Dublin Regional Homeless executive to acquire a hotel on Baggot Street (90-100 Baggot Street) formerly a B and B, for emergency housing accommodation? This report to include, sight of any service level agreement. Cost of this initiative. What professional services, if any, are being offered to those who will use this facility? What is the make-up of the individuals that will use this service, i.e., male/female, single or otherwise, families and children etc? Also, what consultation or engagement with the local community with regards this service has taken place in the locality?

# Q.14 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager issue a full report in relation to the ongoing issues of the roof dilapidation and other defects that are impacting on the residents of Poolbeg Quay apartments? DCC is the mortgage holder for these apartments and serious defects have been detected within the structure of these apartments that are now creating huge health issues and health and safety issues for the owner/tenants here. DCC, as the mortgage holder, needs to make a clear statement as to how they are going to assist in addressing these serious defects, bearing in mind that DCC signed off on this building and indeed is the mortgage holder. We need to step up to the mark here and assist as we did with Priory Hall.

## Q.15 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager give an update as to the CPO process that was called for with regards the dilapidated building which is adjacent to the Swan Bar on Aungier Street? See photo attached. This building has been lying idle for a number of years after the owner, without planning permission, removed part of the historic fabric seriously undermining this particular structure. This particular section of Aungier Street is to undergo a serious refurbishment and rejuvenation next year. The chances of this project not being fulfilled if this present building is not taken in charge by DCC is a serious enough issue to warrant action by DCC.

### Q.16 Councillor Mannix Flynn

Can the manager issue a full report with regards The Staircase Building on Aungier Street? This report to include how much money has been paid to date by Dublin Regional Homeless Executive/DCC to the owners of this building. Also, has DCC considered taking this building in charge bearing in mind that this is a National monument, a rare example of city architecture with its original staircase completely intact? This building was immaculately restored by the award winning Dublin Civic Trust. It is now simply unacceptable that this architectural gem lies idle and vacant and crumbling. Giving us another example of the disregard for the architectural and historical built culture of Dublin City, http://www.dublincivictrust.ie/building-projects/aungier-st/conservation-work

#### Q.17 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to deal with the following issue from a constituent.

He writes,

"The lack of resourcing of Street Cleaning in the city is an absolute disgrace.

For the past few weeks all around this area it has been dangerous to walk on many of the footpaths. And it is not that autumn comes as a surprise every year!

The whole set-up for street cleaning in Sandymount needs much more resources. As of now Sydney Parade Ave is only scheduled to be cleaned by the sweeper truck once every 90 days!

Given that it is a busy road with a rail station this is not good enough. In fairness I do get in touch with Mick Boyle and he does send the trucks more often. However it should not be necessary to beg the council to clean the road."

#### Q.18 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to address the condition of the road surface at Wellington Road, Ballsbridge. Many requests have been made over the years to have this issue resolved.

# Q.19 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to deal with the following issue from a constituent.

She writes:

"I'd like to report a faulty pedestrian traffic light at the junction of Upper Leeson Street and Sussex Road – at roughly 53°19'52.2"N 6°15'07.4"W

This is a light that allows pedestrians to cross from the run of shops on Upper Leeson Street to the median where there is a second set of traffic lights (still functioning) that allows them to cross safely to the east side of Leeson Street.

Until about two weeks ago, the broken light was quite simply the best pedestrian traffic light in all of Dublin. This light worked immediately. It was absolute magic. It serves a very dangerous crossing: parking by the shops and a bend in the road means that a pedestrian standing on the south side of the crossing cannot see oncoming traffic which has a tendency to tear around that corner.

In the last few weeks, however, it is taking up to 4, even five, minutes for the light to turn red. Because it is so dangerous to cross without assistance, every time I've tried it lately there has been a small build-up of people waiting to see if the green man would ever come on. It doesn't and so, after a long wait, people take their lives in their hands and dash across. Unless, of course, they are too elderly or too burdened to run blind into potentially oncoming traffic.

My big worry is that this isn't broken at all. Could it be that Dublin City Council has decided that the one traffic light that I know of in the whole city that actually privileges pedestrians had to go, to make life easier for the vast carbon emitting SUVs of South County Dublin and their impatient drivers? Has the council deliberately changed the phase at that crossing, thereby exposing pedestrians to a lethal crossing? Whatever the cause, there is a terrible accident in the making: people, old and young, have now abandoned the pedestrian crossing completely and are taking their hands in their lives every time they try to cross three lanes of traffic at a blind junction.

Please restore the wonderful pedestrian crossing that used to exist! In fact, please consider using its (former) privileging of the pedestrian as a model for making a more liveable and walkable city."

# Q.20 Councillor Paddy McCartan

To ask the manager to address the following issues raised by a constituent.

"This is my first time writing to any councillor but I feel obliged to report a serious flaw in the cycle lanes at the <u>donnybrook-Stillorgan road junction</u> that at lunchtime I almost witnessed a serious accident. I cycle this route about 6 times a day for the last 5 years and usually I have one near miss once a week. This is now once a day, and I just had to help an old man who got a serious shock from a close pass with an SUV. There are multiple issues with this junction but i**ssue A is by far the most urgent.** 

#### Problem A - this is the most urgent and dangerous one



Traffic coming towards Donnybrook and taking the left exit to Ranelagh continues straight RIGHT THROUGH the cycle lane which veers right (link 1 and link 2). Often cars do not wait for the cyclist, or often don't even understand that the cyclist is continuing straight. The cycle lane needs to be straight here and cover all of the left two turning lanes. Please consult with experts to solve this. Solving this problem is urgent. This is the primary school cycle route and I believe a fatality is likely here.

### **Problem B**

The left turning traffic gets a green light first so if you are cycling straight on you are blocking them. I get a lot of verbal abuse here and if you wait in lane 2, those drivers will beep too.





Outside old Wesley, the bus lane and bike lane merge into one without any warning. I've had multiple close calls where bus drivers keep their line. Not as dangerous as A but needs to be fixed.

# Q.21 <u>Councillor Hazel Chu</u>

To ask the manager the number of fines issued in relation to dog fouling in the south east area for 2019, 2020 and 2021 to date.

# Q.22 Councillor Hazel Chu

To ask the manager for an extension of the laneway through Gulistan Depot to have extended opening hours as to facilitate school times. This will also provide for more accessible hours for those who need to use the depot facilities before work begins.

### Q.23 Councillor Hazel Chu

To ask the manager for an area map of all the EV (Electric Vehicle) Charging facilities in South East Area, how the assessment is made on where they go in and details on

proposals of further chargers in the area. In particular areas with smaller number of off street parking such as Ranelagh and Rathmines.

### Q.24 Councillor Hazel Chu

To ask the manager for a disabled car space and disability access from kerb to road just at Dunville Community Pharmacy.

### Q.25 <u>Councillor Hazel Chu</u>

To ask the manager how frequently the green space especially the dog fouling in Williams Park is cleaned. Since it is a high footfall area and a children's play area the increase in dog foul would be hazardous to a child's health if contact was made to their faeces.

### Q.26 Councillor Hazel Chu

To ask the manager for 30kph signage and ramps at Northbrook Avenue Estate, currently there are cars going up to 50kph in a residential cul de sac.

# Q.27 Councillor Pat Dunne

Can the Area Manager ask that both our Street Lighting Section and Parks do a review of the street lighting on Rutland Avenue? One of the issues is that the streetlights are set back at the walls of the properties where on most other streets they are at the kerbside. Another question is are the number of streetlights adequate? Can Parks arrange to prune the trees where they are blocking out light?

# Q.28 Councillor Pat Dunne

Can the Area Manager report back on the legal ownership and management of (details supplied)? This building which was acquired many years ago to facilitate community development and community activities is now largely unused and there are now local community groups who are seeking a base but do not have access to this building.

#### Q.29 Councillor Pat Dunne

Can the Area Manager arrange for the concreted traffic islands on Clogher / Kildare Road and Kildare / Cashel Road be looked at to improve their visual appearance while adding planting?

#### Q.30 Councillor Pat Dunne

Can the Area Manager arrange between the Roads Maintenance Section and the Parks Section to do an audit of empty tree pits on streets in the Crumlin, Kimmage and Lower Drimnagh area where trees once existed? This should be done with a view to seeing if trees can be reinstated and if not possible plant them with flowers or reinstate the footpath. Please provide a list of empty tree pits and the possibility of a tree being added or other alternatives.

### Q.31 Councillor Pat Dunne

Can the Area Manager ask our Parks Section if a water fountain can be added to the Eamonn Ceannt Pavilion area to allow access to water for park users? Park users could use this to refill drinking containers and bottles.

#### Q.32 Councillor Pat Dunne

Can the bollards at the entrance of Sundrive Park (Wolfe cycles side) be replaced? They are currently in poor condition.

## Q.33 <u>Councillor Pat Dunne</u>

Noting that several lamp posts have recently been painted can the Area Manager provide a list of lamp posts that are on the list to be painted in the Crumlin, Kimmage and Lower Drimnagh area and an expected timeframe for them to be done?

# Q.34 Councillor Pat Dunne

Whilst welcoming the recent installation of a park bench on Clonmacnoise/Bangor circle the residents who requested it are disappointed that it was not erected immediately adjacent to the Tree of Hope. The Tree of Hope is a place where many bereaved people go to get solitude and peacefulness. It is very well maintained by local residents. They would like to be able to sit directly adjacent to the Tree of Hope could another seat be installed to allow for this?

# Q.35 Councillor Pat Dunne

Can the Area Manager arrange with the relevant section to have the trees growing at the back of our Older Persons Housing Complex at Clonmacnoise Grove inspected? Many residents living on Leighlin Road complain that some of these trees are overgrown and blocking light in their houses and back gardens and that some overgrown, overhanging large branches could cause damage in a storm.

### Q.36 Councillor Pat Dunne

Can the Area Manager arrange to have the type of caretaker facilities and other supports that are normal in most of our older persons' housing complexes extended to the 8 older persons' bungalows at the entrance to Poddle Park? Our tenants here complain that they receive no support our assistance.

### Q.37 <u>Councillor Danny Byrne</u>

To ask the Manager if there is permission granted by Dublin City Council to short term let properties at details provided.

### Q.38 Councillor Anne Feeney

To ask the Manager to arrange the following for Rathmines Close.,

- 1 Tidy up and replanting of raised flower beds and pruning of trees
- 2. Repair of potholes and treatment of weeds
- 3. Painting of railings

This small residential cul de sac off Upper Rathmines Road, which comprises of Dublin City Council houses and privately owned houses needs and deserves attention as the public areas look neglected. The improvements suggested are relatively small and low cost but are necessary and will make a big difference in enhancing this small development.

### Q.39 Councillor Anne Feeney

To ask the Manager for details of the leasing arrangement of the padel and tennis courts in Bushy Park including any agreed pricing structure for patrons.

# Q.40 <u>Councillor Anne Feeney</u>

To ask the Manager to assess the following in Mount Argus Park and arrange for further protection. The Liquid Amber tree in the large open area beside the playground has been badly damaged by vandals removing bark. Can this tree be further protected from this type of damage by adding a mesh guard to the trunk? While acknowledging the mesh guard put around the badly damaged cedar tree in the open space, there is Carpinus along the path adjacent to the Cedar which also has had its bark stripped. Can this tree also be protected from further vandalism of this nature too?

### Q.41 Councillor Anne Feeney

To ask the Manager for an update re a more permanent solution to the parking and traffic congestion issues which are still a problem for the residents of Kimmage

Grove. While DSPS have monitored the area during the day, they do not monitor or patrol the area at the busiest times between 6.15pm -9pm, the busiest time for traffic in the area given the popularity of Larkview Football Club. While appreciating the popularity and benefit of the football club for young people, a more permanent solution needs to be found to address the problem for local residents in this one road in and out small estate.

## Q.42 Councillor Carolyn Moore

To ask the area manager to reinstate the double yellow lines along the bollards between Castlewood Avenue and Church Gardens in Rathmines to stop parked cars from blocking this modal filtered route.

### Q.43 Councillor James Geoghegan

To ask the Area Manager if the issues raised in the email below could be addressed.

"Dear Sir /Madam

I am writing to highlight an issue which is readily apparent to anyone living in Irishtown Ringsend and Sandymount. The presence of very smelly algae on our beach and the frequent contamination of the bathing water in the bay through a complete failure to provide proper and effective waste treatment is affecting our daily lives.

A letter to the Irish Times today highlights exactly the issue as regards the algae which is present as a result of the excess nutrients being dumped into the bay by Irish water in their failure to properly upscale the waste water treatment facility.

This is an environmental breach on many levels. Dublin city council appear to clean up beaches on the northside where algae of this scale appears however have left the algae untouched in Sandymount. The continuous pollution of the bay is an issue for the entire city. It is amazing in a modern city, that this is tolerated. The odours, the pollution of the bay and the algae are now becoming part of the daily life in this locality which is unacceptable.

There are many in our local neighbourhoods very unhappy with what has been allowed to happen. We would ask those who are in control of this city to take steps to have this rectified as a matter of urgency and not simply shrug it off as something that happens. The quality of the water in the bay affects all of Dublin's residents whether they be swimmers, walkers, children trying to play on the beach or simply residents who would prefer not to have a noxious odour permeate their day.

Surely it cannot be beyond us to have a functioning waste water treatment plant and not one which regularly overflows. If it overflowed once something should have been done about it. Frankly what has been allowed to occur and continue to be tolerated is a disgrace. Irish Water and those in control of this city must now step up and deal with this as a matter of urgency.

I appreciate your attention to this matter which is of significant concern to many living in this and the surrounding neighbourhoods."

# Q.44 Councillor James Geoghegan

To ask the South East Area manager if the issues raised in the email below could be addressed.

This is my first time writing to any councillor but I feel obliged to report a serious flaw in the cycle lanes at the <u>donnybrook-stillorgan road junction</u> that at lunchtime I almost witnessed a serious accident. I cycle this route about 6 times a day for the last 5 years and usually I have one near miss once a week. This is now once a day, and I just had to help an old man who got a serious shock from a close pass with an SUV. There are multiple issues with this junction but issue A is by far the most urgent. Problem A - this is the most urgent and dangerous one



Traffic coming towards Donnybrook and taking the left exit to Ranelagh continues straight RIGHT THROUGH the cycle lane which veers right (link 1 and link 2). Often cars do not wait for the cyclist, or often don't even understand that the cyclist is continuing straight. The cycle lane needs to be straight here and cover all of the left two turning lanes. Please consult with experts to solve this. Solving this problem is urgent. This is the primary school cycle route and I believe a fatality is likely here.

### Problem B

The left turning traffic gets a green light first so If you are cycling straight on you are blocking them. I get a lot of verbal abuse here and if you wait in lane 2, those drivers will beep too.

# Problem C



Outside old Wesley, the bus lane and bike lane merge into one without any warning. I've had multiple close calls where bus drivers keep their line. Not as dangerous as A but needs to be fixed. C

Please, please do something about this junction before someone is killed.