

**Housing, Community & Emergency Services Department  
South East Area Office**

**To the Chairperson and Members of the  
South East Area Committee**

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**Report of the Director of Services, South City**

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**Grand Canal**

A meeting was held in January 2020 with Waterways Ireland representatives and Councillors to discuss ongoing management and maintenance of the canals in the city and to agree a new structure for quarterly interaction between Waterways Ireland and DCC. The latest meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 via Microsoft Teams and the next meeting is due to be held in February 2021.

**Portobello Harbour Square**

A meeting was held in early September 2021 with City Architects and hotel contractor and other internal departments to discuss arrangements for managing the build and the renovation of the square. Extent of square to be licensed as a compound has been agreed and new Hoarding Licence and Road Opening Licence have been granted to developer. Parks and Landscape Services will undertake a comprehensive local consultation around the re-design of Portobello Harbour Square in conjunction with the South East Area Office. The agreed design will then be submitted for approval under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended). Park Services are currently engaged in preliminary site investigations and there will be more details available regarding the nature and extent of the consultation process towards the end of Quarter 1 in 2022.

**Rathgar Village Improvement Plan (VIP)**

Herzog Park, Rathgar – Final Phase

The Rathgar Village Improvement Plan (VIP) was approved by the South East Area Committee in January 2015. One of the main objectives that emerged during the formation of the plan was the redevelopment of Herzog Park. The South East Area Office undertook local consultation and worked with Redscape and Park Services to create a plan which was brought to Part 8 and approved at the January 2017 meeting of the City Council. The final phase of the works planned for 2021 includes the re-alignment of the front boundary of the park and the revised car park layout, as set out in the Part 8 permission. Talks are ongoing with Road Construction Section to timetable preparation of tender for these works. When this work is carried out, further landscaping inside the park will be required as part of the works to complete the project.

**Ranelagh Gardens Park**

New display boards at entrances to the park have been ordered and they will be installed in early 2022 using 2021 Discretionary Funds.

**Ringsend Irishtown Local Environment Improvement Plan (LEIP)**

The Ringsend Irishtown Local Environment Improvement Plan (LEIP) was adopted at the June 2017 South East Area Committee meeting. Following that it was proposed to prepare planning applications under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, for the redesign of (1) Library Square and (2) Cambridge Road.

*\*Both of these projects are now listed on the Capital Programme 2021 – 2023 and have been awarded funding from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF).*

**Library Square:** (Mitchell & Associates) Meetings with internal stakeholders were held during September and October 2018. A meeting was held with local businesses to discuss parking / loading arrangements on 5th December 2018. A presentation was made to area councillors on 13th February 2019 and a preliminary draft design was brought to a public meeting for all stakeholders on Thursday 21st March 2019 in the Ringsend Irishtown Community Centre (RICC). Following a period of consultation up to 19th April 2019, submissions were received and were reviewed by the project team. A revised design was brought before the Public Realm Working Group on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019. A meeting of all internal stakeholders was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and further meetings work was identified by key departments. An invitation to tender for additional services to bring the project to Part 8 was issued to consultants on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The closing date for submissions was 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and Mitchell & Associates were formally appointed on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Preliminary meeting of design team took place on 15<sup>th</sup> December and detailed consultations with internal departments will be carried out in the coming months to finalise design and Part 8 should be lodged before end of Q2 2022. Councillors will be briefed before we commence the formal Part 8 process.

**Cambridge Road:** An initial public workshop in relation to Cambridge Road was held on Thursday 30th August 2018 in the RICC. Meetings with Redscape Architects and internal stakeholders took place in September and October and designs were drafted based on consultations which were brought to a second public workshop/meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Further information was required in relation to road design and drainage requirements for the proposal in particular. In 2019 Road Design & Construction Section, E & T Department, agreed to take on the completion of the project to Part 8 stage. Detailed meetings took place between Roads Design & Construction and internal departments with a view to agreeing an overall design before commencing Part 8 planning process. Parks Services Department has requested that a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey be carried out prior to Part 8 to identify location of underground services and any impact on tree planting. Drainage Department welcomes the provision of additional greening providing a SuDS benefit and a proposed new surface water main is being considered in conjunction with Irish Water. Agreement of the final design for the road has been delayed as we wait for the NTA to finalise the route for the East Coast Trail (ECT) which will either traverse Cambridge Road or run along part of Cambridge Road from Canon Mooney Gardens to Thorncastle Street. We intend to go out to tender to appoint a consultant for additional services to bring this project to Part 8 stage, but require engineering resources to draft tender brief and supervise consultant. Councillors will be briefed before we commence the formal Part 8 process.

### **Cabbage Garden & Cathedral Lane**

The proposed onsite stakeholders meeting before Christmas was deferred until January due to unforeseen circumstances. Key items for discussion will include a discussion as to where the gym/calesthenics equipment is to be located and also what play possibilities for children can be introduced in 2022 within the garden.

### **Rosary Hall**

After receiving extra funding of €240,000 which was approved at the April City Council meeting (as well as €125,000 already allocated) it has been decided to retender the entire proposed works. Meetings took place with both main community groups and consultant architects during the summer to outline and agree the proposed works which include mechanical & electrical works, fire safety works, remedial works and lift replacement.

The Area Manager is also engaging in meetings with both community groups regarding governance of the facility and a draft management plan for the running of the facility was forwarded to both groups in September.

A management committee, comprising of two members of the football club and two members of the HXVCC and the Area Manager will be established to optimise the use of the facility for the benefit of the community. Further meetings took place with both groups in December and it is hoped to have a joint meeting in January. As HCVCC have indicated they do not wish to be involved in operational matters the management agreement will be adjusted to reflect this. They will however have a role in the supervisory committee. Cllr. Freehill has suggested that the committee might consist of representation from Councillors. This matter was discussed by the members at a meeting with the Area Manager and the outcome was inconclusive as all Councillors were not in agreement. This matter will be revisited in January.

The Draft Tender Documentation is completed and a pre-tender cost estimate has been prepared and tender options are being considered. It is hoped now to tender the proposed works in January with tenders back at the end of February. It is anticipated that works could commence in April.

### **Age Friendly Initiative Harold's Cross**

The inaugural meeting of the Age Friendly Committee took place on January 28th 2020 and was well attended. A draft report was submitted by the Harold's Cross Village Community Council (HCVCC) in conjunction with Rob Chester, Area Community Officer and it was agreed to progress a number of these proposals funding permitting. In tandem. It is proposed to hold a workshop to further engage with the residents and ensure particularly any elderly resident who was not consulted has an opportunity to contribute to the process and be included. It was agreed to defer the facilitation of a workshop to get the views of the wider community until 2022.

A subgroup under the Housing SPC has been convened to look at the City-wide Age Friendly Strategy. Under this structure, submissions for funding may be advanced, including the Harold's Cross project. It has been agreed by the elected members that further monies (€7.500) will be allocated to this Age Friendly Initiative in the Discretionary funding for 2021. 8 IT Age Friendly tablets have been distributed to residents and have been very well received. Cliff Run Media has supplied over 1000 units to established Age Friendly Projects across the country, the tablet comes with one year's free WI-FI and are dignity proofed to make access as easy as possible. Funding of €2000 from the HX Age Friendly Project, €1000 from the Central Age Friendly Fund, and final €1000 from our Community Budget was utilised to finance this initiative. A list of recipients was prepared in conjunction with HXVCC.

It is anticipated that when the works are completed on Rosary Hall, that it can play a pivotal role in Age Friendly activities going forward. The committee decided to advance a further round of tablets for residents during 2021.

Eir has completed the work involved in getting an additional line into Harold's Cross Park to enable Virgin Media to set up the Wi-Fi hot spot for the area around the café. Smart Dublin has confirmed that the installation is complete, but issues in relation to the quality of the service have surfaced. Virgin is working to remedy the situation at the moment and has indicated that handover packs will be available in January.

The next meeting is scheduled for 26th January to look at how the Age Friendly Initiative can be progressed during 2022.

### **Rutland Grove/ Eamonn Ceannt Park**

Meeting took place on 30th January 2020 with traffic engineers, Les Moore from Parks, Area Manager and staff and Cllr. Pat Dunne. It was agreed at the meeting that Traffic Section would look again at the feasibility of putting dedicated parking as per Part 8. Should it be possible to implement, the design would need to be progressed and costed. Leslie Moore has indicated with response to a July motion that he will engage a consultant to review this issue regarding the Part 8 parking. As an interim measure, planters were installed at the entrance to Rutland Grove to enhance the environment and assist with ongoing Illegal parking at the entrance. Regrettably a number of these have been vandalised and a solution is being sought in

conjunction with the residents' association. A meeting took place between the Area Manager, the Parks Section and the secretary of the residents' association on Friday 26th March to initiate discussions around the best utilisation of the co-funded €20,000 for the improvement works and discussions are ongoing.

The presentation of the proposed works at the Parks Depot upgrade took place on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The consultant outlined the plans to Councillors and community groups and welcomed input into finalising the design.

A further meeting took place on June 29<sup>th</sup> to update the Councillors and community groups on modifications to the drawings after Parks Section met with the residents' group on June 17<sup>th</sup>. It has been agreed that laminated drawings, outlining the proposed upgrade of the depot, would be erected on the depot walls to facilitate a better understanding of the proposals, which has happened.

Work is completed on the footpaths across the open green space as agreed under the Discretionary Funding.

A 'Friends of Eamonn Ceannt' meeting took place on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>.

A detailed capital appraisal has been prepared to proceed to tender stage and works on the depot upgrade are scheduled to start second quarter 2022.

The Area Community Officer worked closely with the residents' group in December regarding replanting in the planters.

### **Choice Based Lettings**

There are currently no properties advertised under the Choice Based Letting Scheme. It is expected that units in Lissadel Court and Clonmacnoise Grove will be advertised early in the New Year.

### **CCTV Benbulbin Road**

Following on from the provision of Discretionary Funding for the installation of CCTV at Benbulbin Road, we have continued to try to progress the matter. Adhering to advice from DCC's Data Protection Office, a letter was sent to the Garda Commissioner's Office on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021. This letter requested written authorisation from the Garda Commissioner for Dublin City Council to install CCTV at the location, which is a public area and not within the bounds of a Dublin City Council complex. The current DCC code of practice for installation of CCTV in public places requires such authorisation from the Garda Commissioner. The office of the Commissioner replied on the 11<sup>th</sup> May and submitted a number of documents, including An Garda Síochána's Code of Practice for Community Based CCTV Systems. The documents submitted are at variance with DCC's Code of Practice for CCTV in Public Places and do not seem to take into account that DCC is installing the CCTV rather than a community based organisation. Discussions took place with locally based senior Gardaí in order to try and reconcile the differing positions, but following further advice from our Data Protection Office further clarity was required from An Garda Síochána. We have now received further communication from An Garda Síochána outlining their position on this matter. Unfortunately, An Garda Síochána have stated that their internal policy/procedures will only allow authorisation of this scheme if it is designated a Community CCTV Scheme. As previously advised, designating this CCTV project a Community Based CCTV Scheme would impose greater responsibility on the local community in relation to their role in consultation, installation, maintenance and management of the CCTV system. In addition, given the proposed location of the CCTV and the serious criminality which takes place there, there is a significant potential for health and safety issues to arise for community representatives involved in such a project. It would also have the potential to increase costs for the project. We currently awaiting further advice from our Data Protection Office, but it is looking increasingly unlikely that this project can proceed.

## **Community Development**

### **Allotments**

Annual licences for allotments at Blarney Park, Herbert Park and Ringsend Park are due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> February. In what have been very challenging times, our allotments continue to deliver fresh food and company as well as mental and physical health benefits to our plot holders. The eco-toilet has been installed in Blarney Park Allotments and pre-development work continues on the Kingfisher Project with the residents of St. Martin's Park Estate now included in the project.

### **Community Events**

Given the ongoing difficulty with high cases of Covid-19 and the emergence of the Omicron variant, we will not be planning any community events for the first six weeks of 2021. This is a relatively quiet period in the community event calendar. However, we want to create a safe space over a period of weeks for community activists and group members, and will assess the situation in mid-February. This ties in with a number of community groups, projects and initiatives who have informed us they are closing early for Christmas and are not returning until later in January.

In addition, we will not be re-booking the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies for 2022, given their cancellation for the past two years. A review of their potential to proceed will be taken in September 2022. However, it will require a significant positive change to our current living and working arrangements for them to take place.

### **Community Meals & Care Packs**

Support was provided to the valuable meals services and care packages which were delivered to vulnerable residents over the Christmas period. Ranelagh Community Response, Fairview Avenue & the Square Residents, St. Andrew's Resource Centre and Ringsend & Irishtown Community Centre are all involved in this service. A large number of individuals and small groups and community care facilities received donations of chocolates and other treats in the run-up to Christmas. We supported local resident groups to engage with the hubs on Clonard Road and Mount Argus for Christmas, with a view to assisting a greater local understanding of the role of these facilities and supporting their residents.

### **Christmas in the Community**

Despite the large-scale Christmas events being cancelled, the Community Team supported over fifty smaller events and activities in our flat complexes, community care facilities and other small locations across the South East area.

### **Ringsend & Irishtown Sensory Room**

Support has been provided towards the new sensory room at Ringsend Irishtown Community Centre Youth Café (RICCY's Café) on Irishtown Road. This therapeutic space is fitted with equipment dedicated to sensory experiences and designed specifically to help individuals with autism to feel calm, supported, and focused. This facility will complement the new sensory garden which is under development at Ringsend & Irishtown Community Centre.

### **Planter/Environmental Projects**

Ongoing upgrade of planter boxes and supply of new units continues as required across the area. New planter boxes have recently been installed at Kevin Street, New Bride Street, Iveagh Trust, Irishtown, Ballsbridge, Eblana Villas and Island Villas.

In total, our team have supported over 80 environmental projects in the South East Area in 2021 and this will remain a focus for the year ahead. We will be assessing and compiling lists of requests for supports for various environmental enhancement projects, and plan to continue the roll out of these projects from spring 2022 onwards.

**In what has been very difficult times for Local Community Groups and Volunteers, we are very grateful to all those involved in the above for their commitment and efforts.**

### **Waste Management / Environmental Services**

Requests received for community equipment (bags/gloves etc.) for 2021: **468**

Public Domain Collections from Community (Litter/Leaves) for 2021: **766**

### **Public Domain Deep Clean for December**

Portobello Road/Windsor Terrace/Heytesbury Street/Harrington Street/ Lennox Place.
Cathedral Lane/ Cathedral View / Cathedral View Walk/ Cathedral View Court/ New Street Gardens
Kenilworth Square, Grosvenor Place.

### **Graffiti Removal**

4200 sq.m. removed for 2021 across South East Area.

### **Abandoned Bicycles**

415 abandoned bikes removed during 2021.

### **Joint Policing Committee (JPC)**

The next JPC meeting is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

## **DUBLIN CITY SPORT & WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP REPORT**

## **JANUARY 2022**



DCSWP's strategic mission is to provide opportunities for all people across our communities to get involved in sport and physical activity regardless of age, gender or ability. Delivering on that vision and goal has been challenging in recent times due to Covid-19 but has also presented new opportunities to deliver events and programmes in different and innovative ways and this evolution will continue into 2022.

Indoor programmes will continue where possible and communities in the South East Area will be supported through the delivery of outdoor initiatives, online programmes, the development of the DCSWP Virtual Hub and general ongoing community supports.

**Note: Due to the Christmas Break and earlier than usual requests for submission of reports, specific work plans regarding all new year programmes were not possible to report on in detail for the January area report.**

**Details on all programmes can be found by contacting officers/DCSWP admin staff on the contact details outlined at the end of the report or online at:**

- Twitter: [@dccsportsrec](https://twitter.com/dccsportsrec)
- Facebook: [DublinCitySportandWellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/DublinCitySportandWellbeing)
- Instagram: [@dublincitysportandwellbeing](https://www.instagram.com/dublincitysportandwellbeing)
- Dublin City Sport & Wellbeing Partnership Virtual Hub: [dcwsphub.ie](https://dcwsphub.ie) (official launch TBC in early January).
- Email: [sports@dublincity.ie](mailto:sports@dublincity.ie)

### **New Year DCSWP Citywide Programme Highlights:**

- Citywide Walking programmes – Commencing with Operation Transformation walk on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Location TBC.
- Creative Residency In Sport Update (ongoing local initiative)  
<https://www.dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie/news/sport-meets-culture-as-creative-residency-in-arts-sports-wellbeing-artists-and-clubs-announced>
- Lord Mayor's 5-Alive challenge (see December report. January – April. All races confirmed pending public health restrictions).
- Active Cities - (ongoing national Local Sports Partnership project).
- DCSWP Virtual Hub Official Launch - (Ongoing).
- First Quarter DCSWP Newsletter.
- Change For Life - (Underactive Communities) 8-week programme emulating Operation Transformation format in local communities. Details TBC
- Men On The Move multi-sport and mental health programmes.
- Women's multi-Sport and mental Health programmes.
- Women in Sport - Empowering Women through Sport and Physical Activity (see December report)
- Sports Ability – programmes focussed on individuals with physical, mental, intellectual and sensory disabilities.
- Multi-sport school programmes 2022.
- Linking in with National and International sport/health and wellbeing initiatives.

### **New Year DCSWP South East Area Programme Highlights:**

- CBS Girls rugby – Thurs 3-4pm. Female weekly rugby sessions with CBS in Parc every Thurs 3-4pm.
- Forever Fit – Wed 12-1pm Chair exercises for older adults in the Iris Charles centre.
- Friday night soccer –5-6pm in Irishtown stadium in partnership with Riccy's youth services.

- Athletics programmes – weekly athletics sessions in Irishtown stadium for primary schools in SE area.
- Other activities TBC (Local Officers liaising with local stakeholders – DCC Community Department, Youth Services, School Programmes)

### **New Year DCSWP South East Area Co-Funded Programmes**

A full report on co-funded activities (Athletics, Boxing, Cricket, Rowing, Rugby) which are currently in the planning stages, will be provided in the February 2022 report. School programmes reported on in the November report will resume with details TBC.

### **Upcoming Training for 2022:**

- Online Safeguarding Training to support compliance in local clubs and organisations Safeguarding 2 & 3 delivered on an on-demand basis.
- Disability & Inclusion and Autism in Sport training programmes delivered in partnership with CARA.
- First Aid/PHECC (pre-hospital emergency care training for adults in the community).



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**Derek Kelly**

Director of Services, South City

Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022