

DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Date & Time:	12 th October 2023 @ 3.30 p.m.
Deputation Group:	Clondalkin Tidy Towns
Deputation Attendees:	John Cawley, Pat O’Sullivan and Niall Charleton
Elected Members:	Cllr Francis Timmons, Cllr Eoin O’Broin, Cllr William Joseph Carey, Cllr Trevor Gilligan
Council Officials:	David Fennell (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Fionnghuala Ryan (Climate Change and Environmental Awareness Officer) Sharon Conroy (Senior Executive Officer, Environment), Fionnuala Keane (SSO HSCD Admin), Brian Carroll (A/SSO HSCD Community Admin), Marian Travers (ASO HSCD Admin), Margaret Farrell (CO HSCD Admin)

Cllr Francis Timmons presided.

Items discussed:

1. Clondalkin Tidy Towns Funding

- The group expressed concern that not all available funding has been issued to Tidy Towns groups in previous years and that money has gone unspent.
- The group expressed concern that budgets not being adhered to by the Council.
- The group expressed concern that they were not made aware that there is a ceiling for funding each group.

Fionnghuala Ryan (Climate Change and Environmental Awareness Officer) and Sharon Conroy replied to the groups queries.

Commitment given:

Ms Ryan noted that there were challenges with dispersion of funding in past years due to a staffing problem, and as the budget runs from January to December each year, if it is not spent, it is lost.

In contrast to the previous challenges, she noted that 60% of the 2023 budget has already been spent and that with ‘Round 3’ of allocations taking place in the next week or two she is confident that budget will be spent this year.

The Council are reviewing possible training options for Tidy Towns groups up in climate and environmental awareness projects which would hopefully help with funding applications. Ms Ryan agreed that she would give funding updates to the Area Committee Meetings.

2. Tree planting in Clondalkin area to mitigate Climate Change and increase Biodiversity

- The group stated that they have been working with Stepping Stone Forest and Trees on the Land to plant trees around Clondalkin and wish to co-ordinate with the Council to plant trees and hedgerows.
- The group would like the Council to make sites available for planting.

David Fennell (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent) replied to the groups queries.

Commitment given:

Mr Fennell noted that he has identified a site in Corkagh Park near the Outer Ring Road carpark for the above purpose. However, before confirmation can be obtained, there is a requirement that the council, as the custodians of the land, must liaise with other internal departments to ensure there are no other plans for the area. This process is near completion and is at Director level in the department and he is confident he will have an answer soon.

It was agreed that should the group identify suitable sites for tree planting, he will liaise with the group and work with them.

3. WWI Memorial Stone

- The group wish to know if they have permission from the Council to install the memorial stone and if so, would like agreement on the wording on the stone
- They would like the poetry of Catherine Tynan on the stone as she is a well-known WWI poet

Sharon Conroy (Senior Executive Officer, Environment) replied to the groups queries.

Commitment given:

Ms Conroy agreed the stone could be installed pending agreement of the wording/poem that would be on the stone. She agreed to meet with all the parties involved (David Fennell and Clondalkin Tidy Towns representatives) the next day and to follow up with an e-mail to confirm the details formally.

The meeting concluded as there was no other business