DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Date & Time: Thursday the 29th of October 2026 @ 3.00pm.

Deputation Group: Orwell Park Residents Association.

Deputation Group attendees: Betty Collard, Declan Devlin, Mark Duggan.

Elected Members: Cllr Emma Murphy, Cllr David McManus, Cllr Lynn McCrave, Cllr Justin Sinnot, Cllr Paddy Cosgrave, Cllr Roisin Mannion.

Council Officials: Richard McCormack (A Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic/Road Maintenance/Road Safety), Stephen Brady (Executive Parks and Landscape Officer, Public Ream South), Carl Sage (Senior Staff Officer, Public Realm Administration), Catherine White (SSO Community Dept) Alison Somerville (SO Community Dept), Emma Conlon (ASO Community Dept), Bernie Lee (ASO Community Dept).

Cllr Emma Murphy presided.

Items Discussed

Item 1 – **Overgrown hedges from resident's gardens obstructing footpaths.**

Richie McCormack, (A Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic/Road Maintenance/Road Safety) replied to the groups query:

Commitment given:

The Manager confirmed that hedge-cutting notices have been issued across the Orwell Park estate over the past 6 to 8 weeks. He advised that, where there are specific areas of concern, the group should provide the exact locations for review.

The Manager also outlined the process for the issuance of hedge-cutting notices and the associated follow-up procedures. He explained that South Dublin County Council typically undertakes reinspection works in mid-November to determine which locations require intervention. Following these inspections, reminder letters are generally issued at the end of November, setting out the required actions and providing relevant details regarding any works to be carried out.

Item 2. - Footpath repairs and trip hazards Orwell Park Estate.

Richie McCormack, (A Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic/Road Maintenance/Road Safety) replied to the groups query:

Commitment given:

The manager informed the group that approximately €36,000 was invested this year in the replacement of over 400 square metres of footpath within the area, following expenditure of just under €23,000 on footpath improvement works in the previous year.

He advised that the additional locations identified by residents can be considered as part of the programme of works for next year. The manager confirmed that the areas submitted for attention, namely specific sections on Orwell Park Glade, Orwell Park Lawns, and Orwell Park View, have been recorded and flagged for further investigation.

The manager further confirmed that any reported trip hazards will be assessed and addressed as appropriate. He advised that he intends to carry out a site inspection of the area with a colleague over the coming weeks and, where possible, will seek to prioritise any necessary works. However, he noted that the scheduling and delivery of works remain subject to available staffing resources.

Item 3: Tree maintenance – Pruning of trees.

Stephen Brady (Executive Parks and Landscape Officer, Public Ream South.) replied to the groups query:

Commitment given:

The Manager advised the group that this matter had also been raised in the October 2025 Deputation meeting. At that time, management indicated that, subject to receiving a list of the trees of concern from the group, an appropriate action plan would be developed. However, no such list was received. A further email was issued to the Orwell Park Group in March 2026 requesting this information, but a response has not been received to date.

The Manager acknowledged the concerns raised regarding trees within the open spaces and the large green area. He confirmed that the specific tree discussed at the previous Deputation meeting had been assessed and, where removal was deemed necessary, had been completed. He further advised that a number of younger trees planted on the open space were assessed and have been identified for remedial works including dead wood removal, while some will remain under observation until the spring to determine whether new growth emerges following this Summers dry spell.

The Manager informed the group that the estate is not currently included in the Council's tree maintenance programme. He requested that the group submit a comprehensive list identifying the specific trees of concern, together with details of the issues being reported, such as tree height, tree stumps, or any other related concerns.

Stephen advised that tree stumps are recorded and removed on a batch basis. He further outlined that a period of approximately three to five years is generally required for stump material to decompose before replanting can be considered. He noted that it is not always applicable to plant a tree in the same location where a tree was removed e.g., too close to a light post. The current Tree Policy approach is about putting the right tree right place.

The manager acknowledged concerns regarding the height of certain trees and their potential impact on solar panels. He advised that the Council's Tree Management Policy contains specific guidance relating to solar panels and undertook to provide the group with a link to the relevant policy section.

The Manager advised that any future tree-related concerns or queries should be submitted through the Customer Care Portal to ensure transparency and appropriate tracking. He further recommended that correspondence relating to trees potentially obstructing solar panels should also be submitted through the Customer Care Portal.

Action required by the group: The Manager reiterated that a comprehensive and detailed list of all tree-related concerns must be submitted by the group to South Dublin County Council for the attention of Stephen Brady to enable further assessment and consideration.

Item 4: Halloween – Collection of leaves.

Carl Sage (Senior Staff Officer, Public Realm Administration) replied to the groups query:

Commitment given:

The Manager advised that leaf collection is carried out on an ongoing basis through the Council's standard reporting channels, including phone calls, Customer Care enquiries, and email submissions.

In relation to Halloween-related materials, a dedicated reporting link is available on the SDCC website. Where such materials are reported, SDCC will endeavour to deploy sufficient resources to remove and clean up the area as quickly as possible. However, where materials remain actively burning, they may need to be left in place for one to two days to allow for their safe removal.

The Manager further advised that he would circulate the links available on the SDCC website which provide information on scheduled street cleaning and gully cleaning dates for individual estates. The current average response time from Oxygen, the contractor responsible for cleansing operations, is approximately 24 hours or less. Should there be a significant accumulation of leaves following adverse weather conditions or storms, residents are encouraged to notify SDCC so that the Council can liaise with Oxygen to expedite a clean-up where necessary.

- To note the manager had sent both links to the administration team to circulate to the group members.
- The administrative team confirmed that they will endeavour to upload the meeting report in advance of the groups AGM.

The meeting ended as there was no other business