

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 22nd March 2017 @ 4pm

Deputation Group: Sundale/Suncroft Residents Association

Councillors Present:	Cllr. Charlie O'Connor Cllr. Brian Lawlor Cllr. Louise Dunne Cllr. Martina Genockey	Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan Cllr. Dermot Richardson Cllr. Nicky Coules Cllr. Cathal King
	Apologies: Cllr. Mick Duff	
Deputation:	Barbara Ledwidge Declan Poynton Marie Corr	
Council Officials Present:		
Mary Maguire	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Oisin Egan	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Carol McDonnell	Housing, Social & Community Development	

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Martina Genockey.

1) Litter/Environmental Task Force for the area.

Ms. Marie Corr from the Group starts by recognising the work done by South Dublin County Council on foot of reports of Littering/Dumping made by the Sundale/Suncroft Residents Association Group. The Group see this meeting as a way of extending the relationship that already exists between SDCC and the Group. The Group is requesting that an Environmental Task Force is put in place and that other Resident Associations in the Tallaght area be included. The Task Force could be a forum for Residents to meet with the Council on a regular basis. It would be representative of the Groups in the area.

Ms. Mary Maguire of the Environment, Water & Climate Change Department replies to the Group on the various issues raised (A report has been included and is available at the end of these minutes). Ms. Maguire explains to the Group that the Council knows where the problem areas in the County are and that SDCC are trying their best to deal with these. The request to service a Task Forces for the County is not sustainable but if the Group were to get similar representatives from other Groups in the area, the Council would be willing to meet with that combined Group in a more sustainable way.

2) The resources needed locally to collect rubbish after clean-ups and for litter picking.

Ms. Maguire explains the Social Credit Scheme that rewards Groups like Sundale/Suncroft Residents Association. This scheme offers non-monetary assistance to Community Groups that take ownership of particular areas. Through this process The Council helps by providing some of the necessary equipment and through the system, will arrange for Public Realm to collect the rubbish. (A report has been included and is available at the end of these minutes).

A discussion regarding the withdrawal of staff from the Gateways scheme takes place.

Cllr. Richardson, Cllr. Coules, Cllr. King, Cllr. Dunne & Cllr. Genockey contributed.

Mr. Oisín Egan of Environment, Water & Climate Change Department replied to say that one full Gateway crew had been operating in the area, forty Gateway staff split into two groups. The crew worked very well for the area and this benefited the Council as well. The Council are still looking at how to fill the void left after the withdrawal of the crews. A weekly clean-up could not be achieved with the current staff numbers.

Ms. Maguire explains that the number of staff available to the Council is limited to the numbers approved within the Work Force Plan. This approval is agreed with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. The Elected Members have approved an amount of money in the Budget to allow for the recruitment of Seasonal Staff. The addition of these staff should address some of the deficit caused with the demise of Gateways.

3) The cleaning up of the area.

The Group identify a number of areas in Sundale/Suncroft that would require maintenance.

It was agreed with Mr. Oisín Egan that the Group would email him directly with a list of the issues.

4) Enforcement regarding dumping in the area.

Ms. Maguire states to the Group that in the Sundale/Suncroft area there were around 51 complaints regarding Littering/Dumping investigated in the last year, evidence was available to issue 5 fines. Ms. Maguire explains that in order to get full prosecutions against those littering, witnesses must be prepared to give evidence in court. (A report has been included and is available at the end of these minutes).

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS **SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



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DEPUTATION NO.

DEPUTATION: Community

Litter Environmental Taskforce for the area

REPLY:

The Council has a Litter Management Plan encompassing the period 2015 – 2019, which is a statutory plan prepared as prescribed under Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

The plan proposes to address the negative impacts of litter on our county, improve the quality of life and sense of wellbeing of our residents, and enhance our commercial and tourism potential through the effective and efficient

- enforcement of legislation and regulation
- management and maintenance of our public realm
- communication, education and awareness

The plan outlines roles and responsibilities of the general public, commercial community and the Council.

Currently, the Council employs a team of 5 Litter Wardens who patrol the County on a daily basis investigating incidences of littering and illegal dumping. All reports of litter and illegal dumping are recorded on the Environmental Complaints System, where they are tracked from original complaint through investigation to enforcement.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued whenever adequate evidence is found or provided and direct prosecution is initiated when deemed appropriate.

Those who fail or refuse to pay Fixed Penalty Notices are prosecuted through the Courts.

Our Public Realm section delivers an integrated approach to achieving high quality maintenance and improvement of our public realm, and through the Public Realm operations the Council is focusing on a town and village cleansing programme in all town and village centres on a daily basis Monday to Friday and also in some locations on Sundays.

New staff appointed to the Public Realm Section during 2016 and 2017 were assigned to village maintenance work, and litter bin and cleaning service takes place in some parks over bank holiday weekends with a review of litter bins recently conducted.

Public Realm also responds to requests through the Council's Social Credit Scheme to collect waste collected through planned and scheduled community clean ups.

Our communication, education and awareness programmes are components of the plan through which residents of the County can become more conscious of the impact of littering, dumping and heedless activity on the environment in which we live and the unit promotes the anti-litter and litter prevention message in South Dublin County.

The Litter Management Plan is supported by an annual action plan which is reported to the Area Committee Committees on a quarterly basis.

The Environment Public Realm & Climate Change SPC which comprises Elected Members and non-elected members meet quarterly and consider all environmental issues, including litter management.

Given the above and the level of existing engagement with the public and elected members in relation to litter management, it is not considered necessary to establish a litter task force at this time.

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The resources needed locally to collect rubbish after clean up and for litter picking

REPLY:

The Social Credits Scheme (SCS) rewards community groups and individuals who take ownership of their environment and improve their local area by carrying out pro-environmental actions such as community clean ups, maintenance of community gardens, graffiti removal and weeding of footpaths.

The following materials are available throughout the county, in the two Council offices and a number of community centres to successful applicants: litter pickers, bags, hi-vis vests, shovels and brushes, paint, paint brushes.

Applicants can apply using our [online form](#) which can found on our website www.socialcredits.ie or by contacting us directly at (01) 4149000. Applicants are also advised to apply two weeks in advance of a clean-up so that an appropriate collection location and date can be organised.

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Enforcement regarding dumping in the area.

REPLY:

In the 12 month period 1st March 2016 to 28th February 2017 a total of 51 complaints were referred to the Council's Litter Warden Service in the Sundale/Suncroft area. All 51 complaints were investigated and the dumped material was interrogated by our Litter Warden for evidence. 5 Litter fines were issued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. No enforcement action could be taken for the balance of complaints due to lack of evidence, unwillingness of complainant to provide witness statement or difficulty in identifying the legal entity responsible. Increasingly, it is found that no personal information relating to the polluter is contained within the dumped material with personal information having been removed or shredded.

While enforcement may not always be possible the Council is fully committed to tackling individuals or groups who are engaging in illegal dumping/littering.

An ongoing proactive anti-litter and anti-illegal dumping programme continues to be carried out as per the EMWR Waste Management Plan and the SDCC Litter Management Plan.

Village cleansing programme is ongoing in all town and village centres on a daily basis Monday to Friday and also on Sundays. Existing cleaning schedules are reviewed and modified regularly, planned and scheduled clean-ups of areas prone to repeated littering/dumping incidents is

ongoing, and there is continuous liaison with Residents Associations/Community Groups for clean-up collections.

The Social Credit's Scheme rewards Residents Associations/Community Groups who improve their environment by carrying out pro-environmental actions such as community clean-ups. The following materials are available throughout the county, in the two Council Offices and a number of community centres to successful applicants: litter pickers, bags, Hi-Viz vests, shovels and brushes. Groups who avail of the supports are requested to return the materials following their clean up so that other groups may avail of them. More recently paint, paint brushes and native/pollinator seeds have been added to materials provided.

Some other proactive initiatives carried out include the National Spring Clean, the PURE project, the Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti awareness grants, WEEE collection days and Eco-Week.

The Council continues to examine all options available to it to improve the aesthetic appearance of the county. As always the public is encouraged to work with the Council in helping to identify culprits who engage in illegal dumping thereby helping to increase the level of enforcement action carried out.

Reports of littering and illegal dumping can be made on the Council's Litter Warden Hotline on 01 4149220 and on the Environmental Protection Agency's anti-dumping hotline on 1850 365 121.