

DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Date & Time: Wednesday 26th of March 2025 @3.15pm.

Deputation Group: Clondalkin Youth Band.

Deputation Group attendees: Colm McGrattan, Neil Christopher.

Elected Members: Cllr Shirley O' Hara (Chair), Cllr Daragh Adelaide, Cllr Eoin O' Broin, Cllr Francis Timmons, Cllr Linda De Courcy, Cllr William Carey.

Council Officials: Edel Clancy Senior Executive Officer (Community Services, Housing, Social & Community Development), Catherine White (SSO Community Dept), Brian Carroll (SSO Comm Dept). Alison Somerville (SO Community Dept)

*Cllr Shirley O'Hara presided. *

Items Discussed

Item 1 – Discuss the use of old swimming pool for Arts & Music.

Edel Clancy, Senior Executive Officer (Community Services Department), replied to the group's query:

Commitment given

The manager noted that Items 1 and 2 both relate to the use of the old swimming pool, which is under consideration for renovation, though its future use has not yet been determined. It is recommended to view both items together due to their interconnected nature.

As part of the local area planning process for Clondalkin, the need for community space has been clearly identified, with several groups, including the youth band, having expressed interest. The old civic building is a key focus for redevelopment, and its planned use will influence the future of the pool site. While the two projects may not proceed at the same time, their planning and intended uses will be closely coordinated. Community needs will be actively represented in these discussions.

Item 2 – Discuss the use of Clondalkin Civic Offices for Arts & Music.

Edel Clancy Senior Executive Officer (Community Services Department), replied to the group's query:

Commitment given

The manager outlined, as above, that when developing a facility such as this, note would be taken of this group's needs and along with other groups in the area. In relation to the query about the Arts office and future planning, it was noted that in the case of a new community facility, it would be pertinent to have it as a multi-use facility to cover multiple community groups.

The storage issues that band have were also noted, and the manager is aware of the challenges the group currently face. The use of containers, in general, is under review in SDCC.

Item 3 – Discuss opportunities for funding & support from SDCC to Clondalkin Youth Band.

Edel Clancy Senior Executive Officer (Community Services, Housing, Social & Community Development) replied to the groups query:

Commitment given

The manager acknowledged ongoing communication with Laurence Boran (Community Officer) and confirmed awareness of the group's current grant application for running costs, insurance, and rent. A grant was awarded last year for uniforms, and further support may be available under the community grants scheme. She offered to share the grants booklet and relevant links via email.

While funding is available for certain equipment, it is restricted in other areas—specifically, transport and trips are not covered under the community grants remit. The manager expressed surprise that musical instruments might not be eligible, as they typically fall under equipment. She also suggested contacting the Arts Office, which has a separate grants system and may be able to assist further.

Regarding refurbishment projects, the manager explained that the three-year capital budget is reviewed annually in October–November. That is the appropriate time to propose new projects for funding consideration. She emphasised the importance of getting projects included in this budget for progress to begin.

Addressing the need for community space, she acknowledged concerns about the disparity between newly developed and older areas. The manager stressed that focus remains on ensuring well-established communities—like those in central Clondalkin—are not overlooked and that their needs for meaningful, accessible community facilities are included in future planning.

There were contributions from the Youth Band representatives Colm McGrattan and Neal Christopher, in addition to the Chair, Cllr O'Hara, Cllrs Adelaide, Carey, O'Broin, and Timmins.

The meeting ended as there was no other business.