

## DEPUTATION MEETING Notes

**Date & Time:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 @ 4pm

**Deputation Group:** LITTER MUGS

<b>Councillors Present:</b>	Cllr. C O'Connor Cllr. D Richardson	Cllr. M. Duff
<b>Deputation:</b>	Tara De Buitléar Peter Daly Lisa McCauley Philip McCauley John Kiberd	
<b>Council Officials Present:</b>		
Leo Magee	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Eamon Harnett	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Brian Leonard	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Carol McDonnell	Housing, Social & Community Development	

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Charlie O Connor.

The group introduced themselves and stated that the aim of the group is to obtain Green Flag status for Sean Walsh Park by turning it into a premier green park.

### 1. Staffing at Sean Walsh Park

The group enquired regarding the current staffing levels in the park, including numbers of full time staff and skillsets including Gardeners, General Operatives maintaining the park on a weekly basis, compared to Tymon Park and also ask if there is enough machinery resources available in this park.

Mr. Leo Magee of the Environment, Water & Climate Change department, advised that there are 25 Council Staff attached to the Sean Walsh Park depot who have a variety of skills which include Supervisors, Foremen, Assistant Foremen, Painters, Apprentice Painters and Tree Management Personal who have an ample range of machinery to maintain the park and its surrounds. It is not a true comparison to compare Sean Walsh Park with other parks due to layout and different sizes involved. Mr. Magee walked the park earlier that day, not noting any major issues, advising that the Council is always open to doing things better, stating that the Environment department commended the group on great work they undertake in the park and as such would be happy to work with this group in the park, focusing on any issues that need attention.

The group acknowledged the support from staff of Sean Walsh Park, but reported that there does appear to be a lack of resources, with an overflow of bins particularly in playground area, concluding that the Group would be very happy to meeting council officials in the park.

## **2. Litter management in Sean Walsh Park**

The group, while highlighting and thanking officials for the new blue bins in the park, advised that more bins are still required, particularly outside the park and outside the local community school. The group also stated that the public using the park, often stop to acknowledge and thank this group for tidying the park.

Mr. Magee advised that there may be scope to provide more bins and said that he will meet with the group to discuss installation of new bins.

## **3. Sensory garden**

The group enquired regarding the maintenance of the Sensory Garden and the involvement of St John of God Services in same, advising that previously it was under the care of the St John of God group and the Social Inclusion Unit from South Dublin County Council, also advising that the water grill in this area of park was never operational.

Mr. Magee reported that Environmental Services department were not involved in the original Sensory Garden but he will arrange to have Sensory Garden site examined over the next 12 months.

## **4. Water management & maintenance**

The group raised the issue of dredging of the lake.

Mr. Magee advised that he will consult with relevant council officials regarding maintenance and dredging of the lake.

The group enquired if it is possible to install a grid over the waterfall in order to protect wildlife. The group state that at present the waterfall endangers the health and wellbeing of wildlife, namely Swans.

Mr. Magee advised that although this is the first time this matter has been brought to his attention, he will meet with the group and endeavour to have measures installed to prevent this in future.

The group produced photographs of wildlife injuries in the park.

Cllr. Duff commended the group, adding that volunteers are valuable in supporting the Council and the work of this group is admirable, highlighting the possibility of a Participatory Budgeting idea, if Tallaght was to receive funding in this regard.

Cllr. Richardson concurred, highlighting his support for these measures, and noting that message not to feed ducks bread is getting across.

The group also highlighted the survival rate of wild life and stressing that more support is required from Park's Department in this regard. The group advised that they are willing to provide contact details in relation to rescue of animals.

## **5. Landscaping maintenance plan**

The group highlight some difference in grass cutting schedules, pruning of hedge rows & trees which are over grown, which can lead to black spots causing anti-social behaviour in Sean Walsh Park, the group enquire of plan for next 12 month maintenance of same.

Mr. Magee advised that while it is not possible to elaborate on the 12 months plan for the park, tree pruning should be addressed and in order to view these maintenance issues a site visit will be arranged with the group.

The group requested that this meeting take place before the end of October, also highlighting again the issue of non-operational water feature.

The group thanked all officials for all work in park to date, highlighting the hidden gem within our county in this Sean Walsh Park.

Mr. Magee stated that the site meeting should take place within 3 weeks.

B. Carroll agreed to forward group's contact details to Mr. Magee.

### **Commitments given at meeting:**

1. Leo Magee to meet with group to discuss installation of new bins.
2. Leo Magee to examine sensory garden site over next 12 months.
3. Leo Magee to meet with group regarding the waterfall issue and the affect this is having on wildlife in the park.
4. Leo Magee to meet with group regarding landscaping issues.
5. Brian Carroll to forward group contact details to Leo Magee.