

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON THURSDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2021

The Chair, Cllr. Barry Saul, presided. In attendance were: Cllr. Michael Clark, Cllr. Mary Fayne, Cllr. Kate Feeney, Cllr. Hugh Lewis, Cllr. Lettie McCarthy, Cllr. Séafra Ó Faoláin, Cllr. Una Power, Cllr. Carrie Smyth. Cllr. Jim O'Leary.

Sectoral Representative Present: Diarmuid McAree, Elizabeth Clooney and Dervla King.

Apologies : Orla Hogan

Officials in attendance were: Robert Burns, Director of Services, Infrastructure & Climate Action Dept., Austin Baines, (Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure and Climate Change); Joan Deering, Clerical Officer, Infrastructure and Climate Department); Eoin O'Brien, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Parks Department.

Present: Tony O'Sullivan, Executive Manager of Strategy and Policy, Repak; Kathleen Ryan, Repak; Hugh Coughlan, Regional Co-ordinator, Eastern Regional Waste Management Office.

- The Minutes of the Environment and Climate Action SPC held on Thursday 17th June 2021 were approved and adopted.

The Chair, Cllr. Saul welcomed new Sectoral Representative Dervla King to the committee. Dervla gave a brief introduction to her background.

Cllr. Saul thanked DLR staff for organising the visit to Cherrywood and the proposed Jamestown Park.

- Question from Cllr. Michael Clarke

That this committee invites the Chairperson of the Sutton to Sandycove (S2S) Joint Committee, a joint committee between Dublin City and Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown (established in Dublin City in October 2019 and established here in Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown in November 2019) and associated officials from both Councils as well as representatives from the S2S Campaign Group to listen to progress, challenges and future plans that are required in order to complete this important cycling infrastructure?

Noted.

- Tony O'Sullivan gave a presentation about the work of Repak. Tony gave an overview on Repak and the work, targets set and goals that they have achieved. Repak is an environmental not-for-profit organisation, with a social mission. To lead the recycling and sustainability of Ireland's packaging waste; advocate for a new circular economy; and educate businesses and consumers on reducing and recycling packaging waste.

Repak is a Not For Profit extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme supporting packaging recycling and recovery.

Tony O'Sullivan and Kathleen Ryan also from Repak answered questions from committee members.

- Hugh Coughlan, Regional Co-Ordinator, Eastern Regional Waste Management Office. Hugh gave a presentation on the Eastern Regional Waste Management Plan. It is representatives of the twelve Local Authorities. A new regional draft Plan of the is being prepared and a Consultant has been appointed. It will be going to public consultation next year hopefully in June 2022.

Hugh spoke on the Circular economy, soft plastics, Deposit Refund Scheme, Construction and Demolition waste. Initiatives include Green Clubs with the GAA and the School Composting Project.

Following questions from the Committee members the presentation was **NOTED**.

- Eoin O'Brien, Parks Capital Project Manager, gave a presentation on the Parks Project. Eoin gave an overview of the Parks Capital Programme. It is a three year project. Recently completed projects include Blackrock Park paths and cycle routes, Fernhill Phase 2, Blackthorn Park in Sandyford, Colaiste Eoin pitches, Peoples Park boundary railing treatment and Stillorgan Village public realm improvements. Projects under construction included the upgrade and replacement of all weather pitches at DLR Leisure Monkstown.
- Eoin informed members that all projects sought to use climate change nature based solutions to aid biodiversity and soil health were possible.

Following questions from the committee the presentation was **noted**.

- **AOB**
Austin Baines gave a talk on upcoming Draft Dublin region Air Quality Action Plan to address NO2 levels in ambient air in the Dublin area. NO2 is generated as result of fossil fuel transport movements. The plan is being prepared to go to draft consultation in early October 2021.

Diarmuid McAree on behalf of the Sectoral Representatives wished Austin well on his forthcoming retirement at the end of September and thanked Austin for work. The Chair Cllr Saul also wished Austin well on his retirement on behalf of the SPC and thanked him for his courtesy and hard work over the years.

The meeting concluded at 7.05 pm