

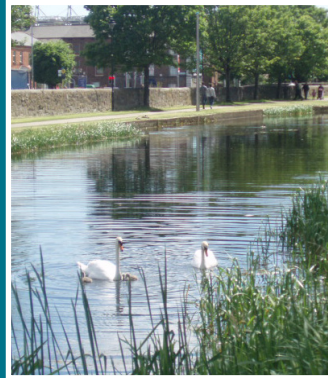
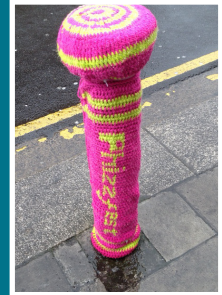
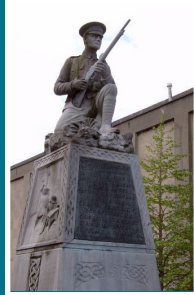
PHIBSBOROUGH

Local Environmental Improvements Plan 2017-2022



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

January 2017





DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL 2016



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Local Environmental Improvements Plan has been prepared for the village of Phibsborough and its surroundings. It is a 5-year working document with the focus on identifying a range of actions and /or programmes to improve the local environment. One of its primary objectives is to engage with local people, both residents and businesses alike, in carrying out these improvements. The preparation of this LEIP is an objective of the Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022.

The primary focus for the Plan is the public realm. This consists of those parts of the urban neighbourhood which are for use by everyone, and includes streets, squares, parks, public buildings and accessible ground floor uses. It also includes landscape elements, street furniture and public art. Improving the public realm, maximising its usability and functionality can greatly improve people's perception and enjoyment of space, bestowing a sense of pride in an area, and acting as a catalyst for private investment. In keeping with the objectives of the 2015 Draft Local Area Plan which was prepared for Phibsborough (not adopted), this LEIP also includes a number of objectives in relation to Sports & Recreation and Arts & Culture; to provide a wide-ranging set of objectives, all seeking to enhance the experience of living, working and visiting Phibsborough, and creating an attractive and sustainable neighbourhood.

A resume of all the Key Objectives and Actions is included within Section 8.0 of this report, set out under four headings of (i) public realm and open space; (ii) sports and recreation; (iii) arts, culture and tourism; and (iv) movement and transport.

Implementation, monitoring and review of the LEIP is crucial to the success of the Plan, and the means by which this will go ahead is outlined within Section 9.0.





2.0 CONTEXT

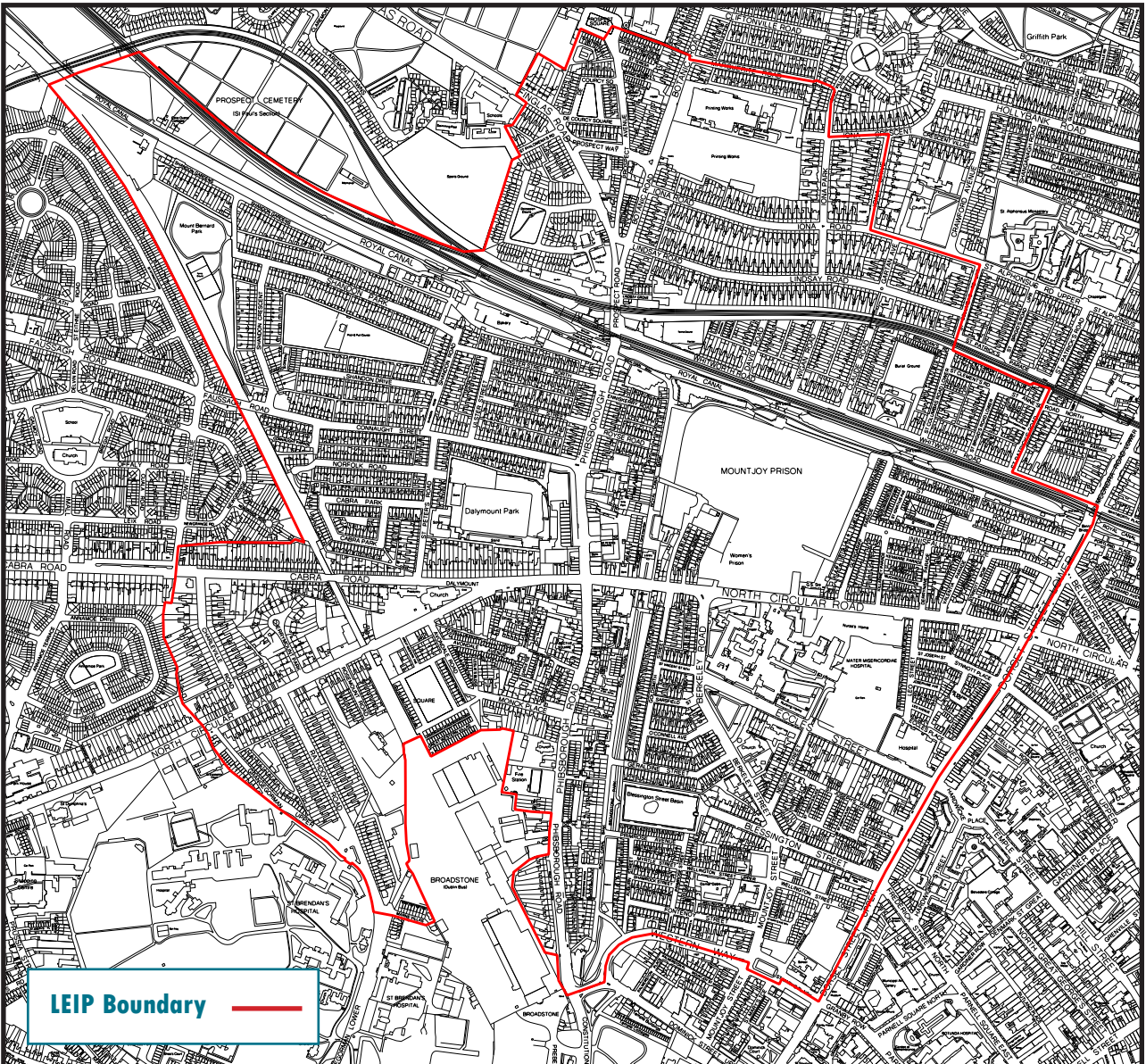
Phibsborough is a well known urban village on the north side of Dublin City, located approximately 1.5 km north of the River Liffey. The urban core of the village dates back to the late 18th century with development in the area significantly influenced by the development of the canal and railway infrastructure of the late 18th and 19th centuries respectively. A Victorian suburb of Dublin, the area today hosts a significant residential population and a number of key employment zones and national institutions, including the Mater Hospital, Mountjoy Prison and Dalymount Park. The village was home to one of the first shopping centres built in the City in the 1960s, at Phibsboro Shopping Centre, a site which is now sadly showing its age; while the Royal Canal which runs in an east-west direction across the area provides a wonderful “green lung” for the City and a biodiversity haven, albeit while also representing an underutilised amenity for sporting and recreational purposes.

The Victorian heritage within the area has been recently acknowledged and safeguarded via two new statutory plans for the area, with the adoption of Architectural Conservation Area plans for both the village of Phibsborough and Great Western Square in 2015.

Phibsborough was the first area in the City for which Dublin City Council prepared a statutory Local Area Plan. Adopted in 2008, it anticipated significant new development in the area with plans for both the Bohemian FC and Mountjoy Prison to relocate out of the area and for the new Children’s Hospital to co-locate on the Mater Hospital site. These proposals have now changed and the purchase of Dalymount Park by Dublin City Council in 2015 will ensure that this historic sporting site retains its sporting use into the future. Some limited new residential development is anticipated in the area at the now defunct industrial sites of Shandon Mills and the Smurfit factory; while the recent sale by NAMA of the Phibsboro Shopping centre will also hopefully deliver new commercial development in the area. Alongside these anticipated private sector investments, the Council has prepared this LEIP to harness investment in the public domain in a co-ordinated and publically accessible manner.

In 2015 the City Council prepared a Draft Local Area Plan for Phibsborough which identified a series of actions for improvements in the public realm, open space, sports and cultural heritage etc. Although the LAP was not formally adopted, it provides a good source of knowledge and a basis for this LEIP. The area covered by the LEIP is identical to that covered by the Phibsborough/Mountjoy 2008 LAP and the Draft 2015 Phibsborough LAP. Covering a total of 177 hectares the plan is centred on Phibsborough village and surrounding areas.

Aerial View of Phibsborough



OS Map of Phibsborough



3.0 CONSULTATION – Process & Outcomes

In preparing this LEIP use was made of the information received and consultations undertaken for the preparation of the Draft 2015 Local Area Plan for Phibsborough. This included a public consultation process at pre-draft “Issues” stage in July/August 2014 and a further public consultation of the Draft LAP in August/September 2015. During both of these consultation periods a total of 174 submissions were received from members of the public covering a wide variety of topics and focusing in particular on areas for which improvements are sought. Consultations with other key players including Waterways Ireland, CIE and the National Transport Agency were also all undertaken as part of this process, as were consultations with the various sections and departments of Dublin City Council. The actions proposed in this Plan represent the outcomes from these consultations.

Public Consultations

Consultation with the public was focused primarily on the “Issue Paper” in July/August 2014 and on the Draft 2015 LAP in August/September 2015. The pre-draft consultation stage involved the publication of an Issues Paper on key topics and areas of concern, asking people to submit their comments on a number of questions posed or matters of importance to them. This stage also involved the use of an on-line questionnaire on the DCC website, with some of the questions and answers received set out below. (Other comments received have been included under various question headings to help group common themes.) The feedback received has been taken into account in the preparation of this LEIP.

Phibsborough in General:

Q: What do you like most about Phibsborough? What works well and needs maintaining?

“The people and sense of community” [local resident]

“Neighbourliness. Good mix of demographics. Victorian architecture. Parks and playgrounds” [local resident]

“Local communities. Now a mix of old Dublin communities and new younger people with children. The demographic make for a vibrant and sustainable area.” [local resident]

“Our community gardens network. They are brilliant, hugely popular and a great social engine for connecting people, learning and relaxing. That’s aside from what they produce!” [local resident]

Facilities like the library need to be retained and enhanced.” [local resident]

“There are lots of lanes and shortcuts in the area. This is great – but it also means that illegal dumpers have lots of

nooks and crannies to put bags and waste. These public spaces need to be maintained.” [local resident]

Culture, Tourism and Heritage Proposals and Suggestions

Q: Are there hidden elements of Phibsborough/Mountjoy which should be promoted to aid culture and tourism?

“.. provide Phibsboro with a ‘tourist trail’”....

“There may be potential to develop a heritage and tourist walk along a route of significant houses (Eccles St, Blessington St, Shandon), historic structures (Shandon Mills, Blaquiery Bridge Irish Volunteer Monument, St Peter’s Church), traditional pubs (the Bohemian, the Brian Boru, the Gravediggers’) and recreational attractions (Royal Canal, Blessington Basin) in the area.” [Local resident]

“The area is rich in history which should be accessible by notice boards or planned walks of the area which could be downloaded highlighting the historical and literary aspects of the area.... 1916 and civic war...Michael Collins frequented the area. The building the pharmacy is situated in [Dargen’s Pharmacy, Berkeley St] was previously owned by J.J. Walsh the first Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in the 1920s government. He ran a barbers shop and Michael Collins would sit in the chair with shaving foam over his face so he would not be recognised and he could watch anyone coming up from O’Connell St. How do we as a business in the area find someone to help us show the significance of the buiding even only by having a window that would tell the story of the time? [local business]

“Where properties have been vacant for more than a specified period of time, it should be an objective of the plan to encourage their renting as artists’ studios/ display or for community use on short term rentals and at low rents”. [Glengarrif Parade & District Residents Assocation]

“enhance the area’s historical significance through the provision of interpretative signage.” [Glengarrif Parade & District Residents Assocation]

“Continue to support Phizzfest” [local resident]

“Distinguished Mountjoy/ Phibsboresans could be remembers in some way... Colonel Fitzmaurice of ‘The Bremen’; Aviation pioneer Pearse Cahill; literary greats, James Joyce, Irish Murdoch, Brendan Behan; pioneer psychiatrists Connolly Norman and Nora Fleury, Mathematician William Rowan Hamilton..” [local resident]

“Dublin bikes, walking tours, information plaques, other tourist facilites such as cafes, safe cycle lanes, sufficient policing, boat tours”. [local resident]

“Not nearly enough is made of this end of the James Joyce trail. It all seems to stop at North Great George’s Street. Nelson Street (the shabbiest street in Dublin) is a key part of it and looks awful. Then there’s Brendan Behan! His birthplace, and the mountjoy connection.... Sean O’Casey; his birthplace. .. the whole history of Mountjoy itself, and the Rising and the Civil war... Then there’s the Gardiner family (not least the murder of Luke Gardiner) and their architectural, historic and social role in the area. ... the canal and the history attached to that. .. the amazing architecture... We have a mountain of connections that are hardly exploited at all. Each could provide a considerable tourist and cultural attarction on its own. What a fabulous place we live in!” [local resident]

“DCC should ensure longer and less fragmented opening hours for [the] library...”

Q: Are there stuctures of historical, architectural, artistic, social or cultural interest that you think should be added to the Record of Protected Structures?

- *The house in which, according to his biographer Richard Ellman, “James Joyce preaped for greatness” – No 7 St Peter’s Terrace/ St Peter’s Road. In the 1960s a commemorative plaque was mistakenly paced on the house next door!*
- *The birthplace of Dame Iris Murdoch in Upper Blessington Street*
- *Stone Villa, NCR*
- *No. 50 Shandon Park, then home of Nora Herlihy, where the first meeting of the Irish Credit Unions League (not the Irish League of Credit Unions) took place in 1960, chaired by John Hume.*
- *The Phibsborough Road birthpalce of Commandant Dick McKee of the Irish Volunteers*

- No. 17 St Benedict's Gardens, one-time home of Emmet Dalton, First Clerk of the Irish Senate, creator of Ardmore Film Studios, decorated with the Military Cross for bravery in the field as a member of the Dublin Fusiliers during WW1 and later a senior officer in the National Army, reporting directly to Michael Collins and later to Dick Mulcahy.
 - Michale Collins address in early 1916: 16 Rathdown Road
 - The home of two-time Taoiseach John A Costello at No. 32 Rathdown Road.
- [Combined submission received on behalf of a number of resident associations]

Traffic Proposals and Suggestions:

Q: What types of traffic calming and in which locations would you recommend for your area?

Create a sense of 'entering' the village space

"Traffic calming is of crucial importance to improving the area's environment and **Doyle's Corner** is the key site for remedial action to be taken by DCC." [Combined submission received on behalf of a number of resident associations]

"The Council should widen footpaths and provide a pedestrian crossing signal at the same time on all four legs of the junction at **Doyle's Corner**." [Local Councillor]

The bollards in use at Doyle's corner, being too fat for purpose, should be removed and replaced with less cycle-hostile alternatives."

The construction of a separate pedestrian bridge over Westmoreland Bridge would dramatically increase the safety of this key pedestrian crossing over the Royal Canal;

".. address the traffic issue as a priority matter and seek to minimise double yellow lines outside shops. Increase the times given at controlled road-crossings to allow disabled people and those with prams to safely cross the road... Prioritise pedestrian and cycle traffic." [Local resident]

"bike lanes/ bike lanes/ bike lanes" [local resident]

"Further roll-out of [dublinbike] stands in Phibsborough village and surrounding streets would be very welcome." [local resident]

Cycle lane from St. Peter's Church through Doyle's Corner to intersection with Berkley Road

"Staggered/ separate **speed bumps** are a problem as drivers regularly move to the centre of the road in order to avoid these which presents a risk to oncoming traffic and does not necessarily cause the vehicle to slow down. Full width bumps should be installed, in particular on Connaught Street." [local resident]

"Many footpaths are in a poor state of repair (.e.g. Eccles St) and would benefit from **re-surfacing**. Some other footpaths are dangerously narrow and would benefit from widening, subject to survey." [local resident]

"Review the traffic management in the Glengarrif Parade area to reduce the through-flow of traffic. This could be done by changing the current one way system" [Glengarrif Parade & District Residents Association]

"St Joseph's Parade/ St. Joseph's Place/ Blessington Court/ Blessington Place are ideal as a home zone.... Traffic calming should include chicanes, seating strategically placed, trees, planters etc." [local resident]

"Could the footpath outside St. Peter's School on St. Peter's Road be widened to facilitate the huge number of children that congregarte there daily. Footpath on opposite side of road is wider than one of school side!" [local resident]

The eastern footpath of Botanic Road would benefit from some form of safety railing to reduce the risk of pedestrians being struck by buses driving in the adjacent bus lane;

The placing of traffic bollards along the narrow footpath running between Phibsborough Library and the former Church of Ireland School (Blaquiere Bridge Schoolhouse) at Royal Canal Bank would improve pedestrian safety;

Traffic-calming measures to reduce the number of cars using the laneway between Phibsborough Library and Blaquiere Bridge Schoolhouse (379 NCR) which is currently used as a short-cut to Phibsborough Road;

With the LUAS BXD in mind, there is scope to develop a cyclepath from Liam Whelan Bridge to Cross Guns Bridge, with Dublin bikes station at either end. There is also scope for a Dublin Bikes stand at the proposed Phibsborough LUAS stop on the Cabra Road.

A restitution of the left turn for vehicles coming from Whitworth Rd onto Cross Guns bridge towards Phibsborough,

Removal of “sheep pen” barriers at Doyles Corner to allow pedestrians to cross diagonally;

Removal of pedestrian ‘islands’ at Connaught St and Phibsborough Rd to enable pedestrians to cross in one phase

Identifying and using back lands as public, off-street access to various parts of the village and beyond

Q: Would you agree to the removal of an on-street parking space outside your house/building for providing planting, other amenity improvement and/or street furniture?

“In general streets benefit hugely from minimisation of concrete space for parking and the introduction of greenery etc.” [local resident]

“There is no way we could give up parking spaces” [local resident]

Public Realm, Open Space, amenity Proposals and Suggestions:

Q: What are the priorities for the area in terms of improving the public realm and public open space?

Q: Are there areas of open space that are under-used for some reason and how could they be improved to allow for greater public use?

Q: How can we best improve the tourist and leisure potential of the Royal Canal, Royal Canal Bank and Blessington Basin?

*“Top of my ‘shopping list’ for [Phibsborough] is the provision of a **civic space**.... Does Phibsborough Library need its grounds to be locked up every weekend, including Bank Holiday weekends... Does the Volunteer monument need to be railed in to its own inaccessible space.” [local resident]*

*“DCC should wherever possible foster Phibsborough identity. This can be achieved by simple steps to ensure that the **street furniture** is local and appropriate (i.e. Victorian) to Phibsborough..” [local resident]*

*“**Street furniture and shopfronts** could be the focal points for the first phase of this push for environmental environment.” [Combined submission received on behalf of a number of resident associations]*

“The village centre is run-down and is in danger of continuous decline. Commercial property owners should have planning laws enforced regarding signage, shopfront appearance, litter etc. [local resident]

*“Control proliferation of **poor signage** on retail units.”*

*“Improved **street cleaning** and punishment of littering” [local business]*

***Paint lamp posts** in Geraldine Street which are rusted and unsightly”. [Berkeley Environment Awareness Group]*

***Overhead electricity lines** in Geraldine street should be rerouted underground (they are in the flight path of ducks and swans exiting and entering the Basin. [Berkeley Environment Awareness Group]*

*“**Flower baskets** being supplied to improve the appearance of streets” [local business]*

*“**Tree planting** is [also] a vital part of the fight back against excessive motor traffic and the pollution it produces as well as an amenity enhancement in its own right.” [Combined submission received on behalf of a number of resident associations]*

“Additional planting would soften the hard appearance of the village centre, especially along North Circular Road (from Dorset Street to Doyle’s Corner) and Phibsborough Road. [local resident]

*“The greatest single threat to biodiversity in the Special Area of Conservation at present is **invasive Japanese knotweed**. Every possible action should be taken, by all parties concerned, to eradicate the fairly recent problem” [local resident t]*

*“.. provision could be made for insect hotels, bird boxes and other measures to **enhance habitat**”. [local resident]*

Consideration should be given to a redevelopment of the **Blessington Street Basin** 'gatekeeper's cottage into a cafe and community venue." [Combined submission received on behalf of a number of resident associations]

"Well maintained **recycling facilities** that are easily accessible for local people." [local resident]

"A **playground** in Great Western Square" [local resident]

"..seats in the park in **Great Western Square** needed for pensioners like myself" [local resident]

..."The coming of the Luas should be accompanied by a City Council led push to fully rehabilitate the land on both sides of the **Royal Canal** between Shandon/ Coke Oven Cottages and Broombridge." [Combined submission received on behalf of a number of resident associations]

"Plan for the use of the **Royal Canal** as an urban water recreational area and integrate it with the existing Linear Park and the Blessington Basin. Integrate the Mount Bernard Park with the nearby Glasnevin / Botanic Garden city recreational area." [local resident]

"Green areas in ownership of CIE adjacent to **canal** should be acquired and developed." [local resident]

"Increased residential and commercial activity along the **canal**, including retail kiosks, would be beneficial to reducing this risk, as would an increased Garda presence."

There is a need for "a framework for the proposed development of a national **canoe polo resource** on the 5th level of the **Royal Canal**, west of Cross Guns Bridge, ideally to include the reconstruction of the old lock-keepers cottage at the 6th lock to accommodate changing rooms, toilets, showers, First Aid facilities etc."

"**Allotments**, either in park [Mount Bernard Pk] or near canal" [local resident]

Mount Bernard Park is a welcome green space in Phibsboro. However, it is a very small park and would benefit from the inclusion of the derelict lands adjoining it – a Park ranger is needed there also." [local resident]

"High quality amenities should be installed [in **Mount Bernard Park**] – playground, flower beds, space for allotment activity/ rental, better supervision/ dealing with antisocial activity/ vandalism".

"Improvements to the linear green space along **Royal Canal Bank** behind Phibsborough Library to include picnic benches, seating, additional planting, litter bins, etc." [Local resident]

"Improvements to the Broadstone linear park in terms of lighting, safety, access and cycling" [local resident]

"The **greening** / enlivening of the ugly gable wall of the old State Cinema on the NCR (now Des Kelly's) is a most innovative one which I wholeheartedly support." [local resident]

"Please return **the Basin** to fresh water access as it was in the past." [local resident]

Re. **Blessington Park**; "What is required is a ramp which would facilitate wheelchairs and buggies. An environmental initiative would be for Dublin City Council to purchase the derelict cottage beside the Unknown Soldier Statue at Blacquire Bridge to be converted into tea rooms and provide a civic space which Phibsborough lacks at present." [Berkeley Environment Awareness Group]

Blessington Court Square was bollarded off by DCC at our request to provide a community play area within the collages. However DCC had no money to provide games embedded in the tarmac, or to redevelop it as a high amenity..... This is our only public space in an area where children are obliged to play on the street and it could really be a magnet for maximum usage." [Local resident]

"Car park beside McDonalds, its wall could be demolished, rationalisation of the parking, and public realm improvements. [local resident]

Community Use & Access to buildings/ facilities:

"**Greater access to some buildings** in the area that could be used by the Community, e.g. Crosscare on Wellington St. What is it used for after hours or at the weekend?" [local resident]

"Engage the Dublin City Sports Partnership to further develop **sports facilities** in the area, e.g. a Phibsborough Sports Passport (Shandon Pitch & Putt; Chareville Tennis; Cross Guns Snooker; Panama & All Saints Parish Bowling Clubs etc)" [local resident]

"Well designed schools that remain open during the summer and in the evenings, to provide classes, workshops etc. for the entire community. It then becomes a hub for so instilling the idea of continuous learning. The underuse of schools in the holidays is scandalous." [local resident]

Keen Community Interest and Involvement

As evident from the great number and detail of the submissions received on the LAP, alongside the dynamic and progressive work of local group Phizzfest and the emerging Tidy Towns in Phibsborough, it is clear that there is a strong local commitment to improving the local environment in Phibsborough. This support and enthusiasm was also clearly articulated in a number of submissions received, e.g.:-

“As a writer/ historian with a keen interest in local politics and environmental issues I am available for any further discussion or suggestions should you wish to contact me”. [local resident]

“As a local resident, I am very happy to be contacted regarding potential initiatives that involve improvements to the area. In this regard, I would be happy to join a neighbourhood Tidy Towns or clean-up group if Dublin City Council wished to be involved in co-ordinating this”. [Local resident]



4.0 PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACE

Targeting improvements in the public realm and open spaces is one of the key driving forces behind the preparation of this LEIP. As noted previously, the public realm consists of those parts of the urban neighbourhood which are for use by everyone. It includes streets, squares, parks, public buildings and accessible ground floor uses, and also includes landscape elements, street furniture and public art.

Open spaces considered include parks, playing fields, wetlands, grasslands, the canal corridor, allotments, recreational areas, remnant vegetation, residential gardens, street streets as well as considering innovating and emerging new urban green technologies such as green roofs and green walls. Often considered in parallel to these spaces are the recreational needs of an area and the use of the spaces therein which is covered in the following section.

4.1 PUBLIC REALM

The public realm is a key part of everyday life and has a significant impact of how we interact with and enjoy our city. A key aim of the LEIP is to improve the quality of the public realm from the perspective of the pedestrian; how spaces are experienced, and how safe we feel in them. The plan will seek to address existing deficiencies and to promote proposals for public realm enhancements and new spaces.

The Dublin City development Plan 2016-2022 provides guidance on the design of successful streets and public spaces. It emphasises the need to develop a high quality network of active, attractive and safe streets and public spaces which are memorable and which encourage walking.

Dublin City Council also has a Public Realm Strategy which addresses lands within the Canals. It encapsulates a vision for Dublin as a City that is easily accessible, welcoming and comfortable, that celebrates Dublin's historic character and that shows the City to its best advantage. Key areas for consideration include safety, litter, undeveloped/derelict sites, movement, congestion, street clutter, signage and materials. The plan identifies Phibsborough Road and the North Circular Road as key historic approach roads into the city, and the need to protect their historic character and achieve high quality environments. It also identifies the need for public realm enhancements which connect the emerging new urban quarter at Grangegorman with Broadstone.

Identifying specific actions and projects to improve the public realm of Phibsborough is key to this Plan.

Historic Streetscapes: The Dublin City Public Realm Strategy justifiably identifies the North Circular Road and Phibsborough Road as of particular interest in terms of protecting the character and enhancing the setting of historic streetscapes. Also of note and considered worthy of attention is Eccles Street and Blessington Street, the latter considered key in linking the amenities of a future rejuvenated Parnell Square with Blessington Basin, and bringing people into the area.



Permeability: Making the area more permeable, in particular for pedestrians and cyclists is a key objective in terms of movement and public realm enjoyment. Measures to enhance permeability throughout the area and enhance the public realm will be examined. Providing additional pedestrian bridges over the canal for example is identified as a means of removing obstacles to permeability.

Civic Spaces/ Squares:

Phibsborough has a well defined village centre, with many fine public buildings of note including the library and St. Peter's Church. However it lacks a key civic space that can accommodate markets and events, public art etc. The Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 proposes that a new civic space must be included in any redevelopment proposals for the Phibsborough Shopping Centre site. The area between the library and 'The Soldier' along the North Circular Road is also identified within this plan as a suitable space to create an enhanced civic space, marking an entrance into the village and linking to Blessington Street Park.



Of note also is a proposed new civic space granted planning permission as part of a proposed new residential development at Cross Guns Bridge, (Ref. An Bord Pleanála PL29N.243444, Oct. 2014). This proposal includes provision for a new "public square" onto the canal, providing a focal point not only for the proposed development, but also for the wider canal area. This planning permission also conditioned a requirement for a café/ restaurant in one of the proposed new buildings fronting onto this space.

Phibsborough Village: A key issue which the village faces is movement and the dominance of the car. While it is anticipated that in the future radical changes may be possible at Doyles Corner, it is not at this stage proposed to take space away from the car, until such a time as the LUAS cross-city and the Swords and Blanchardstown bus rapid transit routes and/or Metro North are operational. In the interim measures which can help improve the village include improvements to paving, change in road surface, hanging baskets, planters, lighting, rationalised signage (both public and private), improved pedestrian crossings etc. It is proposed to carry out a range of improvements to the village centre as part of the LEIP, and in line with the Dublin City Public Realm Strategy.



Street Trees: A key element of improving the Green Infrastructure and biodiversity network, is the role played by street trees in enhancing the appearance and “feel” of streets. It is an objective of the Plan to undertake an area wide assessment of all streets within the area in association with local resident associations, to determine locations for additional street trees. In some circumstances it may be agreeable to remove car parking spaces to allow for the planting of additional trees.



Tidy Towns: Local residents and business have in recent years convened a Tidy Towns Committee for Phibsborough. Such a measure has the potential to see significant improvements to the area, and efforts of the Committee will be supported and encouraged by the Local Authority.

Safety: Making Phibsborough a well designed neighbourhood where people feel safe and secure; and where crime and disorder, or the fear of crime, does not undermine quality of life or community cohesion is important. Examining areas where safety is a concern is the focus of the Joint Policing Committee, where residents, the City Council and An Garda Síochána work together to tackle crime and fear of crime. Where appropriate areas of concern identified by the Joint Policing Committee will be examined to determine if public realm/ design factors can be used to aid safety.

General Public Realm Improvement

In addition to the more prominent civic spaces, there are a number of less prominent areas, both public and private space, that could benefit from improvements. Some examples include: -

- The junction of Rathdown Road and Grangegorman Upper at the entrance to the new Grangegorman Campus, would benefit significantly from a landscaping plan and in particular tree planting.
- Space to the front of the former Egan’s Cash n’ Carry site on the North Circular Road.
- St. Mary’s Avenue is a small residential cul-de-sac which currently contains 2 no. small green spaces with grass and tree planting. As a green space however it offers little in terms of amenity or biodiversity value.
- St. Peter’s Court (a Dublin City Council senior citizen housing complex) has a number of open spaces fronting onto the Royal Canal Bank which are in need of landscaping improvements.
- Pedestrian link between Connaught Street and Norfolk Road
- ESB substation lands between Phibsborough Road and Royal Canal Bank.
- Land next to the Sunnybank Hotel fronting onto Botanic Road.



The on-going targeting of these sites and others which are in need of improvement will be an objective of the LEIP and Dublin City Council, ideally in conjunction with the Tidy Towns Committee, local residents and business associations.

4.2 OPEN SPACE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The City Council actively promotes the concept of a Green Infrastructure strategy with the aim to create a linked network of strategic green corridors and open spaces. Strategic green corridors include the Royal Canal and the Tolka valley, with objectives to connect these two corridors with one another and also to connect to the south, towards the Phoenix Park and River Liffey. As part of the Plan process these key corridors are examined along with the potential for connections and enhancements. Consideration is given to issues of access, movement, biodiversity and amenity.

Phibsborough currently benefits from a number of valuable amenity spaces, most notably Mount Bernard Park, Blessington Street Basin, The Royal Canal and Great Western Square. As discussed above, the quality of public space, and the public realm generally, is a fundamental influence on public perceptions of the attractiveness of an area as a place to live, work and invest. Open space should be well designed, visually as well as functionally and accessible to the maximum number of people within the plan area.



Existing Open Spaces and Proposals for Improvement

The Phibsborough area includes some unique and attractive recreation spaces which provide important recreational and open green space for local residents.

i) Mount Bernard Park

Mount Bernard Park is the largest public park within the plan area, accessed off Faussagh Road and Shandon Park, it currently measures 2.12 hectares. The park contains an area of open green space, walkways and planting. Recent improvements since the 2008 LAP have included the upgrading of the tennis courts and MUGA (multi use games area), as well as the installation of a new slide and natural play area. The park is well maintained but would appear to be underutilised by the surrounding residents. A significant drawback to this park is the lack of over-looking and passive supervision.

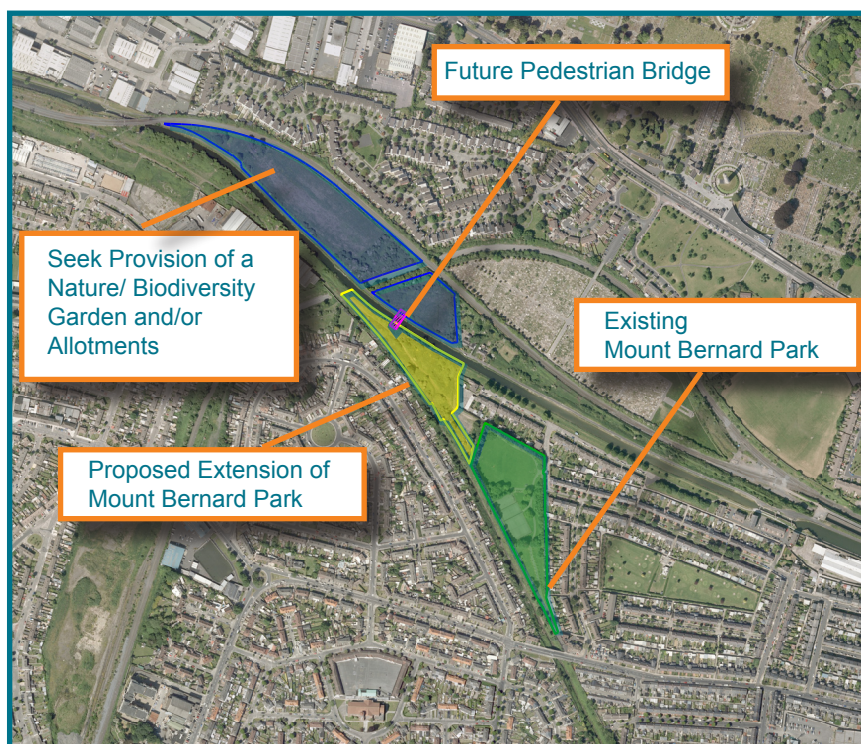
Proposed improvements:

The park is currently bordered by the disused Broadstone line to the west, which is due to become the line of the new Luas Cross City with a station just inside the entrance to Mount Bernard Park. This provides opportunities for increasing the footfall into the park and also for improvements to the park entrance itself.

To the north the park is bordered by derelict lands separating the park from the Royal Canal. DCC is in discussions with the Rail Procurement Agency and CIE regarding the acquisition of this piece of land measuring c. 0.72ha, with a view to linking the park to the Canal and thus greatly increasing the amenity value and perhaps catering for an enhanced range of activities. Issues of contamination of these lands from a former creosote facility will need to be resolved.

It is also an objective of this Plan to construct a new pedestrian bridge over the Canal at this location, linking into the proposed new cycle/pedestrian path which will run along the northern bank of the Canal, linking the City Centre with Ashtown. North again of the canal tow-path is a large land bank, straddling the Plan area, which is owned by CIE and is currently not in use. DCC have begun discussions with CIE exploring the possibility of acquiring the use of these lands for a nature garden and/or allotments. Such an objective would greatly increase both the amenity value and biodiversity offering along this key green infrastructure corridor.

The objectives for the Plan include the acquisition of these new lands, the preparation of a landscape strategy, securing agreement for a new pedestrian bridge, financing and implementation. It is an ambitious objective that has the possibility to greatly enhance the open space and amenity value of the area.



ii) The Royal Canal

The Royal Canal is the most important piece of green infrastructure within the Plan area, providing a biodiversity and amenity link from the River Liffey in Dublin to the River Shannon near Tarmonbarry. The importance of this route is reflected in its designation as a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA), site Code 002103. The Canal and adjacent pathways are managed by Waterways Ireland.

The canal bank is a wonderful amenity for walking, running, cycling and passive recreation, although the lack of building frontage reduces opportunities for passive surveillance, and with that perhaps reduces use of this space. The Canal basin between the 5th and 6th lock of the Canal is however used for canoe polo tournaments, and is considered the most suitable location for such a use within the administrative area of Dublin City Council. A local group, Cabra4Youth, also operate a kayaking and cycle club in the area, currently based within a steel container next to the 6th lock of the canal.

In 2010, a report entitled Dublin City Canals, was published, commissioned by Waterways Ireland in conjunction with Dublin City Council, Fáilte Ireland and the Dublin Docklands Development Authority. The aim of the study was to identify the recreational, tourism and commercial potential of the Royal and Grand Canals.

Proposed improvements:

Implementing the recommendations of the Dublin City Canals report is an objective of this Plan.

Current proposals by the National Transport Authority (NTA) include the installation of a cycle track and improved pedestrian path along the entire length of the Royal Canal. This proposal has planning consent and will hopefully be implemented within the life of the LEIP. It includes provision for a new bridge over the canal at the 3rd lock, to the north-east of Mountjoy Prison. It is also an objective of this LEIP to provide an additional new bridge north of Mount Bernard Park as noted above. Such an amenity has the potential to facilitate cycle clubs, running and walking groups. It is hoped that these works will greatly increase usage and amenity, and also encourage a more sustainable means of travel.

It is also an objective to explore opportunities for the delivery of a water-based centre in the vicinity of the 6th lock, in association with Waterways Ireland and with the agreement of CIE. Changing and storage facilities in addition to some parking provision is required. Suitable locations may include the site of the existing steel container utilised by Cabra4Youth and the old ruined lock-keepers house next to the 6th lock. Such a centre would provide changing and storage facilities. Jetty's and/or improvements to the canal bank may also be required to develop this amenity, with the basin between the 5th and 6th lock targeting canoe polo teams and the longer stretch between the 6th and 7th lock, more suited for kayaking groups. Future objectives for this site may also include tiered seating overlooking the basin as identified within the Canals study. Further up along the canal opportunities for fishing pegs along with stocking the canal with fish should be explored.

Other objectives of the Canals report include the provision of an outdoor education barge with permanent mooring point, and the development of a canal arts and culture programme.

West of the Plan lands are objectives to improve boundary treatments to the canal and to enhance linkages to Tolka Valley Park, thus creating an important green network for the city. The creation and development of landscape enhancement programmes are also proposed.

Managing biodiversity and sensitive habitats remains a specific objective for the management of this space, in addition to managing the water quality of the Canal.



iii) Blessington Street Basin

The Blessington Street Basin is a unique public space in Dublin City consisting of a wildlife pond, walkways, planting, art sculpture and park facilities, (measuring 0.75 hectares). It is a tranquil public park tucked behind the narrow Victorian streets in the vicinity of Blessington Street. It was completely refurbished in 1993/ 1994, with more recent improvements including the renovation of the gate lodge which is in use as an office by DCC Parks Department.

Proposed improvements:

It is an objective to convert the existing DCC depot within the Basin into a tea room/ café with outdoor seating, thus enhancing the enjoyment of this space and drawing more people into it. Such a feature could greatly aid a local tourist economy, providing an attractive stopping point between the emerging Cultural Quarter at Parnell Square and other city amenities such as the Botanic Gardens to the north. The existing dublinbikes station at Blessington Street further aids and enhances the accessibility of this proposed new attraction.

It is also an objective to improve water quality within the Basin and to restore and conserve the railings and gate at the entrance to the Basin from Blessington Street.



iv) Broadstone Park / Blessington Street Park

This public open space consists of an elongated linear park along the line of the old canal spur. It contains elements of green space and walkways, in addition to a new children's playground, all-weather pitch, and gym equipment. To the south of the park is a well-used and well-maintained community garden (allotments).

Proposed improvements:

To the north of the park the ground levels rise sharply to the North Circular Road where The Soldier statue provides a focal point. Proposals by the National Transport Authority to provide a cycle way along this route will likely require alterations to this end of the park. As part of any such work it is an objective to enhance the setting of the park as a passive civic space, with connections across the North Circular Road to the library. It is also an aspiration, subject to agreement with the private landowner, to screen the gable wall of the old cinema (now Des Kelly's).

v) Broadstone Park / Royal Canal Bank

Also located along the line of the old Canal spur, and abutting the side of Mountjoy Prison, this area of open space, while containing some tree planting, is largely nondescript and underused, book-ended by the rather unattractive Eircom building to the south.

Proposed improvements:

Adjoining the site of Mountjoy Prison, this linear park has the potential to form part of a wider redevelopment / landscape plan in the future. However given the timescale for the redevelopment of the prison, it is proposed that improvements be carried out to this space, perhaps in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, and the provision of a new cycle way along this route.

A long term aspiration would be to demolish the existing Eircom building and to continue the park up along this stretch of land, with an improved space to the rear of the library/ entrance to the Scout Den.



vi) Berkeley Park / Four-Masters Park

Located on the corner of Berkley Road and Eccles Street this park is focally very dominant. The park contains attractive planting and walkways, and is home to two pieces of public art. The park while managed by Dublin City Council is under the ownership of the Mater Hospital and is not accessible to members of the public.

Proposed improvements:

It is an objective to open up this park during the day for the public to enjoy, and also to improve the setting and relationship between the park and the Mater Misericordiae building across Eccles Street. Recent enhancements to the street here have resulted from the removal of car parking and the introduction of dublinbikes.



vii) Great Western Square

This square shaped area of open space is overlooked by housing on three sides. Surrounded by railings the park which measures 0.41 ha consists of a grassed area with trees and pathways.

Proposed improvements:

While attractive in form, this park provides limited scope for recreation and amenity and is also limited in terms of its biodiversity provision. Requests during the public consultation stage called for improvements including the provision of a children's playground and seating. It is proposed to develop a plan of works for this park in consultation with the local community.

vii) Library Garden

There is a small green space/ public park to the front of the library. Recently added to this space is the award winning garden entitled River Run. This garden was designed to help celebrate the designation by UNESCO of Dublin as a City of Literature, containing fragments of salvaged stone from the old city streets and a tree as a gathering place for story-telling.

Proposed improvements:

Creating a unified landscape scheme for the library garden that ties across the road to the 'Solider' is an objective for this Plan, marking (i) the entrance into the village; (ii) the entrance to Broadstone Park, and (iii) a new civic space for Phibsborough.

In terms of use of this space, it is an objective to promote the use of the River Run garden for storey telling during the summer months (see section on culture).



(ix) Community Gardens/ Allotments

The Plan area contains three well maintained and well used community gardens, providing a wonderful garden resource in this urban area and enhancing the local environment.

- De Courcy Square: measuring 0.14 ha this square is entirely in use as allotments, and is well used and well maintained.
- Broadstone Community Garden: This relatively new community based garden is located to the south of Blessington Street Park, and contains allotments. It is managed by DCC in conjunction with the Broadstone Community Garden network.
- Phibsborough Community Garden Located at Great Western Villas/ Monck Place, this small community garden was initiated in March 2009. Bounded to the streetscape by interwoven willow planting scheme, it presents an attractive street frontage, while inside is the unusual but wonderful plastic bottle greenhouse.

Future: It is proposed to maintain and preserve these three allotment spaces.

It is also proposed to explore options for providing new allotments possibly along the Canal.



Biodiversity & Natural Heritage

In maintaining all of the open spaces mentioned above and in relation to the design of new spaces, regard and consideration must be had to relevant biodiversity policies and legislation, including the National Biodiversity Plan 2011-16, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020, the Wildlife Acts, and various provisions at EU level including the Habitats and Birds Directives, and the Bern and Ramsar Conventions. These all focus on the protection of important species and related habitats.

Improvements to biodiversity will be sought through the careful management and maintenance of the above key spaces, in addition to the street trees and other areas of open space.

The Dublin City Biodiversity Plan 2015-2020, is a working document setting out a programme of actions to protect and enhance the city's natural heritage and for education and awareness raising. At city wide level, the City Council has produced a number of aids to help raise awareness about biodiversity including native tree trails, audio podcast tours and wildlife signage for public parks, in addition to teacher handbooks, class activity sheets and information leaflets for schools. There are also a number of national and international biodiversity-themed 'days' and 'weeks' which are held annually, and which provide opportunities for raising awareness at a local level. The most important of these, in the context of the Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020, are World Wetlands Day (February), National Tree Week (March), International Biodiversity Day (May), St Anne's Park Rose Festival (July), National Heritage Week (August), World Parks Day (September), and Science Week (November). Examining ways to engage the public with these key days is an objective of the Plan.

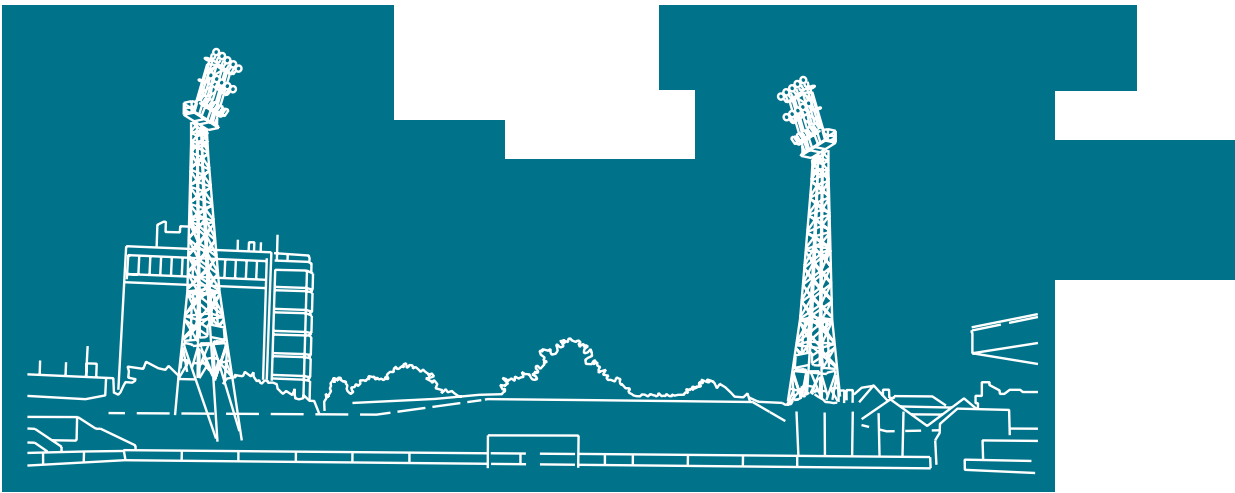
Action 19 of the City's Biodiversity Plan is to:

Action 19: Co-ordinate a series of awareness, education, and volunteering events around the City's rivers and canals as part of an annual biodiversity awareness programme, which contributes to the achievement of objectives under the Water Framework Directive

It is an objective to link the objectives of this LEIP with the City's Biodiversity Plan and to work with the City's biodiversity officer to help raise awareness locally and also to engage with existing local organisations such as the Lifeline Project/ desireland.

Invasive Species

Submissions received during the consultation process highlighted the need to control the spread of invasive species, notably Japanese knotweed and vine weed which travels swiftly along the disused railway line and along the canal corridor. CIE, Waterways and DCC all have programmes in place to help control this on their respective lands, but it is noted that a public campaign may also be required to bring this to the attention of residents and landowners in the area.



5.0 Sports and Recreation

Phibsborough has a number of well established sporting institutions which are readily identifiable with the area, most notable and perhaps imposing of which is Dalymount Park, home to Bohemian Football Club since 1901. Other long established and well regarded facilities include the Shandon Pitch and Putt Club (opened 1952), the Phibsborough Boxing Club, Cross Guns Snooker Club and Chareville Lawn Tennis Club (founded in 1894!), all of which provide excellent facilities and training opportunities within the area. Just outside the Plan area is the Old Fire Station, home to St. Saviours Olympic Boxing Academy for over 40 years. More recent additions to the area include the multi-use games area within Blessington Park and the development of canoe polo and kayaking along the Royal Canal. The area also contains a number of private local gyms.



Proposed Enhancements

Water Sports/ Canal Bank: A key area for developing sporting and recreational amenity is the active development of the Canal for sporting and recreational purposes. The provision of the “Greenway” cycle and pedestrian path along the canal will greatly improve facilities for cyclists and hopefully encourage more people to use this amenity, thus improving passive supervision and safety of the area. Developing the Basin for canoe polo is also identified as a key objective with a clear need for changing and storage facilities to be provided. The provision of fishing pegs and the development of a fishing club is also sought to improve the range of amenities on offer.



Dalymount Park : The grounds at Dalymount Park have been home to the Bohemian Football Club since 1901, historically hosting many key international matches, but recently used more for home games of Bohemians FC. The site which is in need of extensive refurbishment and investment was recently purchased by Dublin City Council with the aim of retaining the soccer focus of this site and also to expand the sporting and community use in future redevelopment. It is the aspiration of the City Council to redevelop this site and to provide Phibsborough and the north side of Dublin with a key piece of sporting infrastructure fit for the 21st century. As part of any redevelopment proposal it is hoped to celebrate the rich sporting heritage of the site.

St. Vincent's Boys School: Located just outside the Plan area (to the north) is St. Vincent's Primary and Secondary School. These schools have extensive playing pitches, a large gym and a now disused swimming pool. These facilities are recognised as an important resource for the community, which should be protected and enhanced where possible. Although just outside the LEIP area this school/amenity serves a significant catchment population of the Plan, and it is an objective to explore options to improve facilities here.

Youth / Community Centres

Existing

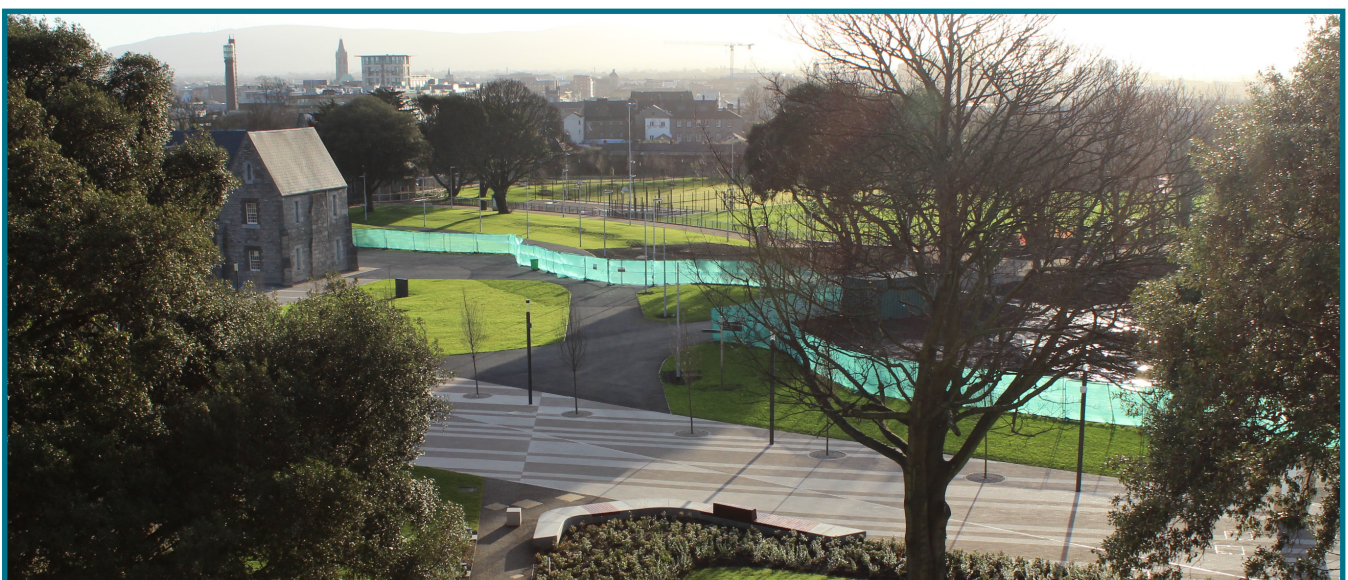
The provision of youth/community centres is largely catered for by the local parishes/ pastoral care, with varying levels of usage and facilities on offer, including St. Francis Xavier Community Centre, All Saint's Parish Hall, The Wellington Centre and St. Peter's Club. Also within the area is St. Peter's Scout Den, located to the rear of the library in the heart of the village. Just outside the area is the Hardwick Street Community and Recreational Centre, the MACRO Community Resource Centre, and the Drumcondra ABC. There are also numerous schools within the area and just outside which provide afterschool and evening facilities and events.

Proposed

In order to ensure that existing facilities are maximised for the benefit of the community, the City Council will undertake a consultation and review exercise of the existing facilities within the Plan area with a view to encouraging optimisation and optimal use of existing facilities. Options to be explored may include putting in place appropriate insurance schemes, extensions or the running of programmes by the Council's sports and recreation department. Only through such collaboration and joined-up thinking can resources be truly sustainable.

DIT at Grangegorman

Dublin Institute of Technology is one of Ireland's largest university-level institutions with over 20,000 students and 2000 members of staff. The relocation to Grangegorman, will bring a unique international innovation hub and community amenity to the doorstep of Phibsborough. With the campus operational since September 2014, the next few years will see the college consolidated and expanded. In addition to providing an educational facility and innovation hub the campus is also providing facilities including sports and recreational amenities, a performance and exhibition space, a new primary school and a new playground. The College has also developed an additional sports campus with gym and all-weather playing facility at Barrow Road.



Activities and Programmes

When looking at community and youth facilities it is important to remember that it is not bricks and mortar that make community facilities, but rather the people, the activities and programmes on offer that engage people that is truly important. To help build strong networks and create viable inclusive and sustainable communities the City Council provides a range of services and provisions, including the work of the community development and sports development officers, the work of the Social Inclusion Unit and the Office of Integration. Staff work with and assist communities to help build their capacity, and to provide access to services and facilities for all age groups, all abilities, and all ethnic and cultural groups.

Community Development staff are involved in a large range of projects annually including family fun days, resident associations, local festivals, Lets Walk and Talk, Passport for leisure etc. Support is also given to the community through grants. It is an objective of the Plan to continue this work within the Phibsborough area, and to work with local residents and communities to identify where support is needed.

Play: The National Children's Strategy (2000) sets out the rights of children in Ireland. It seeks to address the many ways in which we can improve children's lives, including access to play, sport, recreational and cultural activities. Dublin City's play plan, 'Play here, Play there, Play everywhere' (May 2012) aims to provide inclusive and accessible play opportunities for children and young people. One of the key principles adopted in this plan is that children and young people have a right to be seen, to be heard and to play in public spaces in the city. Play is essential to the healthy development of children and young people – not just their physical development, but their social and cognitive development too. The plan encourages families and communities to support children and young people to play outdoors and to take actions in supporting the use of local environments. Local residents surrounding Mount Bernard Park have worked with the City Council's Play Development Officer over recent years to provide a natural play environment in Mount Bernard Park, and it is an objective that this work continues to be developed in the area. To encourage the idea of optimizing use of our outdoor spaces, the City Council also operates a Summer Play programme – providing free outdoor play activities for children, and young people, from traditional street games to gardening and play in natural landscapes.

Specific play objectives for the area include enhancing the "play environment" of Mount Bernard Park and Great Western Square, and the provision of play days in association with local residents. In keeping with City's Play Plan it should also be noted that play areas do not have to be confined to parks, and some residential streets may provide good opportunities for enhancing play. For example the area of Cabra Park, currently has 35 children aged 12 and under (census 2011), with limited gardens and opportunities for door-step play. It may be possible to create spaces within the public street, through planters, trees, paving etc which enhances this environment for children playing.

Dublin City's Social Inclusion Unit was set up in 2000. It works to promote social inclusion through measures such as social inclusion week, social inclusion magazine; engagement with community groups and the development of Dublin as Age Friendly City. The Dublin Age Friendly City Programme was established in February 2013, making Dublin the first capital city in the world to adopt a city-wide approach to becoming age-friendly. Local alliances will be established in each of the 5 local authority administrative areas, with each local alliance delivering Age Friendly Action Plans.





6.0 ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM

Tourism Potential

Phibsborough is located just north of the City Centre, and closer again to the emerging cultural quarter at Parnell Square. It is also located just south of key tourist attractions of the National Botanic Gardens and the Glasnevin Cemetery museum. As a key route between these destinations, Phibsborough is well placed to take advantage of a tourist economy. Developing safe and attractive means of travel, e.g. with appropriately placed dublinbikes stations and the enhancement of cycling facilities along the Royal Canal Bank, and the arrival of Luas Cross City, there is potential to bring tourists into the area. Amenities such as the proposed cafe at Blessington Basin and the development of the Royal Canal as an amenity would significantly enhance this potential. Enhancements to the public domain, upgrading open spaces such as around 'The Soldier', the creation of a new public plaza at the Shopping Centre and improvements to Doyle's Corner, will all play a contributing and welcoming role for the area.

The development and enhancement of arts and culture within an area, provides a support for the tourism sector, and is also a vital component in supporting a good quality of life for individuals and communities.



Arts & Culture

Arts and culture can play a key role in regenerating and enlivening areas, in improving civic pride and supporting local economies. A focus on culture at the local level can foster a thriving locally-based arts or creative community. It can develop creativity and confidence in young people, engage the elderly, and help with social inclusion in diverse communities. In these ways, investment in cultural participation is an investment in neighbourhoods and communities.

Phibsborough has a rich architectural heritage with many fine examples of buildings and streets dating from the Victorian era, providing an attractive setting for visitors and residents alike. But it is not just its built heritage that Phibsborough has to offer. Phibsborough's cultural heritage is diverse and interesting with many strands worthy of celebration. There is the sporting heritage associated with Dalymount Park; the historic, social and architectural heritage connected with Mountjoy Prison; the industrial heritage associated with the canals and

railways; a literary heritage; and a thriving artistic community. Promoting and celebrating this rich heritage is seen as an important objective of this LEIP. Measures which are proposed include historic trails, a sporting museum, public art and a literary wall.

Promoting the arts within local communities is a key objective of the City Council's arts office, with an aim to engage with and support existing and emerging artistic communities. Education, the creation of linkages and supports are all vital components in enriching the cultural experience of Phibsborough. Engaging and interacting with various stakeholders also offers opportunities to partake in well established events, including for example Open House, Heritage Week and Culture Night.

Key aspects of Phibsborough's existing Arts & Cultural Heritage

(i) Dalymount Park

Standing in the heart of Phibsborough, with its floodlights dominating the skyline, is Dalymount Park, home of the Bohemian Football Club since 1901. Previous plans to relocate out of the area have been abandoned leaving scope to celebrate this important venue for years to come.

Founded in 1890, the Bohemian Football club were pioneers of the game in Dublin. Moving originally amongst various venues, they settled at Dalymount Park in 1901. This venue proudly staged the first ever Irish Cup final in 1903, watched by a crowd of 6,000 spectators. Steeped in history, both the Bohemian FC and Dalymount Park offer unique opportunities to celebrate a sporting heritage of National significance. As part of the 125 year celebrations, the Club launched an oral history project to encourage people to tell their story about the club, the results of which will be deposited in the Dublin City Sports Archive at Pearse Street Library. It is important that the sporting heritage of Dalymount is explored and celebrated as part of any redevelopment proposals for this site.



(ii) Mountjoy Prison

The Government previously announced proposals to relocate Mountjoy Prison out of the area to a new prison on the edge of the City. While these proposals have been put on hold it is acknowledged that it remains Government policy to relocate the prison freeing up this significant site for redevelopment. Such a large site, with a significant architectural, historical and social history, offers numerous possibilities to develop and enhance arts and culture within the area. For now however, any focus on celebrating the significance of this site will be purely from outside the prison walls.

(iii) Industrial Heritage

Phibsborough has much to celebrate when it comes to Industrial Heritage. With both the Canal and the railway lines originally terminating at Broadstone, this area once played a key strategic transportation role for the City. These pieces of infrastructure have left a wealth of Victorian engineering gems in the form of bridges, tunnels, locks and buildings, while the Canal banks now offer added amenity value. Also associated with this infrastructure are a number of industrial buildings of merit including the Mills at Cross Guns Bridge. While it is the role of the City Development Plan to protect this industrial heritage is an objective of this Plan to explore means of celebrating it. One of means of doing such is to develop an historic/ information trail for the area incorporating and celebrating the areas rich industrial heritage.

(iv) Literary Heritage

Phibsborough has a proud association with many writers of note. Celebrated in the form of a bronze statue along the Royal Canal, is the literacy figure of Brendan Behan. Behan (1923-64) was a well know Irish poet, writer, novelist and playwright originally from Russell Street (near Mountjoy Square). Sean O'Casey, (1880-1964), another

well know artist, and author of *The Plough and the Starts*, *Juno and the Paycock*, amongst other masterpieces, was born at 85 Upper Dorset Street, and lived at a number of properties around North Dublin including No. 422 North Circular Road and No. 9 Innisfallen Parade.

To help understand and appreciate the literary heritage of the area it is an objective to install a “literary wall” within the public library in Phibsborough. A simple measure, it publically promotes writers associated with the area, and provides reference information on each writer. Similar successful walls have been installed by Dublin City Council in the libraries of Rathmines and Marino.

Following on from the research associated with the development of this “literary wall”, it may prove appropriate to develop a literary walk with associated plaques and way-finding system. Such a walk may be solely focused on literary heritage or incorporated within an overall historic/ cultural/ tourist trail.

(v) Phibsboro Library

The library in Phibsborough dates from 1934, constructed on land that once formed part of the Broadstone Branch of the Royal canal. It is itself an iconic art deco building, and was a forerunner to the 1930’s branch library system. Libraries by their very nature offer a wonderful resource to the local community and are a fount of knowledge on local history and community information, and as such the protection and enhancement of the library is important both from an architectural heritage perspective and from a cultural and community perspective.

The Phibsborough library in addition to offering a standard book lending facility also plays host to numerous lectures, workshops, and events including talks held during Heritage Week. It is an objective to continue to expand and enhance the offerings at this library. The “literary wall” noted above, would be a welcome addition to this facility.

Also of note, is the award winning garden located within the grounds of the library, entitled *River Run*. This garden was designed to help celebrate the designation by UNESCO of Dublin as a City of Literature, containing fragments of salvaged stone from the old city streets and a tree as a gathering place for story-telling. Promoting the use of this unique space is an objective of the Plan.



(vi) Phizzfest

The promotion and development of the Arts in Phibsborough has benefited greatly through the now annual phizzfest festival. A community arts festival, phizzfest has been run successfully over the past number of years by the local community, celebrating all forms of artistic life and highlighting the rich diversity of culture within the area. It is a wonderful community event supported by Dublin City Council that should be encouraged and facilitated going forward.

(vii) Public Art – Art in the Parks

Dublin City Council has a proud heritage of public art in parks, providing outdoor galleries for many works of art, and breathing life and energy into outdoor spaces. Within the Plan area, are four public works of art, displayed for all to enjoy, providing focal points and enriching the spaces within which they stand.

- The Soldier (1939), located at the entrance to Blessington Street Basin serves as a monument to the members of the Irish Volunteers who fought and died during the Easter Rising (1916) and the War of Independence (1919–21). Made of limestone, the statue by artist Leo Broe, stands on a sixteen foot plinth, and shows a

man kneeling, dressed in Volunteer uniform, holding a rifle. The memorial also contains a fountain and three bronze plaques, showing scenes from Irish mythology and ancient Irish history.

- *Natural Histories* within Blessington Street Basin, comprises of a series of 17 bronze sculptures, set into the wall at the Basin. Designed by artist Austin McQuinn, the pieces depict animal and vegetation life reflecting the Basin's reputation as a refuge for nature in the centre of the City.
- The Four Masters Memorial (1876), located within the Mater Plot/ Berkely Road Park is a high cross by James Cahill, commemorating the Franciscan friars of Donegal town, who between 1632 and 1636 compiled a history of the ancient kingdom of Ireland, and which became known as the Annals of the Four Masters.
- *The Healing Hands*, by artist Tony O'Malley is also located within the Mater Plot. Commissioned by the Mater Hospital, the sculpture is a hollow bronze hand patterned sphere containing an eternal flame on a tree-trunk style pedestal. It was erected in 2000 to celebrate the third millennium of the birth of Christ and is intended to symbolise the healing ministry of Christ. The handprints that make up of the sphere were gathered by the artist from patients and staff in the hospital.



Emerging Neighbouring Cultural Venues

Phibsborough's proximity to Dublin City Centre offers opportunities to draw upon and benefit from the many national and City-wide institutions the City has to offer. Of particular note is the nearby emerging cultural cluster at Parnell Square, the developing Grangegorman Campus, with DIT acting as an educator and promoter of the arts; and the Glasnevin Cemetery museum to the north.

- (a) The Parnell Square Cultural Quarter: Dublin City Council aims to create a new dynamic cultural quarter in the city at Parnell Square. At the hub of this new quarter will be a new City library offering exhibition space, conference facilities, and recreational areas. There will also be learning suites, digital creation zones, an Innovation Hub with spaces for meeting and co-working, and spaces for young people's learning and recreation. These new facilities will complement the existing Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane, one of the most significant galleries in Europe; and also The Irish Writers' Centre at 19 Parnell Square and adjoining Dublin Writers Museum at No. 18. These latter venues provide a hub of literary activity, supporting and promoting Irish writers and literature at home and abroad. Offering seminars, lectures, writing workshops and presenting a history of Irish literature in the museum, they also offer a peaceful sanctuary for writers.

The surrounding neighbourhoods to Parnell Square already host other examples of arts and cultural venues, including for example Darc Space and the James Joyce Centre on North Great George's Street and the Chocolate Factory on Kings Inns Street.

- (b) Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) at Grangegorman Campus

As noted previously Grangegorman is in the process of becoming home to the Dublin Institute of Technology as part of a significant relocation process which will see the various schools, together with new health, sporting, residential and cultural facilities, located on a single site. An Arts Hub is envisaged to accommodate performance spaces and these will also be accessible to the wider community for evening uses.

In September 2014 the School of Art, Design and Printing, previously based in Portland Row and Mountjoy Square moved to the new Grangegorman campus. This School offers courses in Creative and Cultural Industries, Visual Communications, Fine art, Visual art, print and digital media, and a unique one-year MA entitled The Dublin Project.

Spaces already available within the campus include the wonderfully restored St. Laurence Church, dating from 1850. This space is now available as a multi-purpose space that can be used for exhibitions, rehearsals, workshops, receptions as well as religious service.

(c) Glasnevin Cemetery and Museum

Drawing visitors north of the Plan area is the Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, located within Glasnevin Cemetery, with linkages to Prospect Square and the Botanic Gardens. The museum offers insights to the history of Dublin and genealogy workstations help people to trace their ancestors. The City Council recently implemented a heritage and tourism initiative to improve the approach to the cemetery from Prospect Avenue, with new lighting, planting and signage put in place. Such enhancements greatly contribute not just to the cultural heritage of the area, but greatly improve the residential amenity.

The creation and the strengthening of links with these various organisations will be a focus of the Plan, in collaboration with the Arts Office, Community Development section of Dublin City Council and the local community.



PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING ARTS & CULTURE LOCALLY

The *Arts Act 2003* defines the ‘arts’ as including visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture, all of which are a fundamental part of Dublin’s cultural identity. Dublin City Council plays an important role locally, citywide and nationally to sustain the Arts in all its forms, through Festivals, Public Art, Libraries, and through the many programmes which it delivers.

A key strategic aim of the City Development Plan 2016-2022 is to ensure that all neighbourhoods/ communities have the ability to participate and contribute culturally and artistically, while artists themselves can work in suitable environments. In practical terms this may mean a dedicated area reserved for cultural pursuits, purpose built facilities or provision of suitable external communal areas.

The vision for the Phibsborough LEIP is to facilitate appreciation of and participation in culture and the arts by the greatest number of people possible in venues or workspaces suitable for this purpose. Achieving this vision requires the implementation of a broad range of objectives across a spectrum of organisations and disciplines. The Plan sets out a number of objectives, but it is noted that this is an evolving area, and that the work of the local community and the City Council’s arts office may bring new opportunities over the life of the Plan.

(1) The City Arts Office

The work of the City Arts Office focuses on 3 areas of work, notably (i) assist public access to the arts; (ii) facilitate artists’ development (e.g. accessing workspaces), and (iii) enrich the cultural experience of the city.

The Arts Office’s strategy in developing and supporting local arts initiatives is to work in partnership with statutory, community development or voluntary organizations that have rooted local knowledge and are locally active and can

share complementary objectives of artistic quality and local benefit. Continuing and strengthening the existing collaboration with Phizzfest will be an objective of the Plan, as well the exploration of new opportunities for collaboration. Synergies with the Parnell Square culture quarter, with Grangegorman and axis Ballymun will be explored, with an objective to run pilot programmes in the area.

Education within local schools will also be a focus, to encourage access to the arts and participation from a young age.

The Vacant Space Scheme is a scheme run by the City Arts office and which tries to marry vacant shop units with artists to make better use of vacant spaces. Targeting local landowners in the area may bring opportunities to make more lively use of their spaces pending any major redevelopments. This scheme also has the benefit of helping to develop local artist's connectivity to the wider community and vice versa.

(2) Cultural Integration

The Phibsborough LEIP area has a relatively high percentage of population who are non-Irish by origin (37%). The City Council has taken a proactive role at city level to respond to new migration and its impact on the city. The Office for Integration was set up in 2006 as a strategic unit with the responsibility to facilitate understanding and commitment to diversity, integration and inclusion. This office recently ran the "One City One People" campaign and also coordinate the now annual Dublin Chinese New Year festival. An important component of this programme is the utilisation of culture/arts as the medium by which established cultures and new cultures to Ireland can find common space to understand and appreciate the others cultural attributes. The Arts Office has also engaged in a research project regarding immigrant artists and their needs in the city and how such talent can bridge the divide between the national and international.

(3) New Civic Spaces

The LEIP contains an objective to create a new civic space at the Library/ Soldier, while the City Development Plan 2016-2022 also seeks the provision of a new civic space with an element of public art as part of any redevelopment of the Phibsboro Shopping centre.

(4) Accessibility and Information

Access to information is key to understanding what the area has to offer and to enhancing the tourism experience. The development of a walking tour/ self-guided map for the Phibsborough area is an objective of this LEIP.

"Let's Walk & Talk" is an existing community initiative of Dublin City Council comprising free guided weekly walks in various parts of the city celebrating historical places of interest and other special events, and has included walks along the Royal Canal. Building on the success of these tours and information already available, it is proposed to develop a walking tour of Phibsborough, noting places of interest and making information available in a self-guided map, and also available as a smartphone app. Places of interest may be of architectural merit, amenity, literary interest, artist or cultural merit. The trail will be designed to provide people with an opportunity to explore the area and what it has to offer. (Similar maps have been produced by the City Council for Ranelagh and Donnybrook).

In developing the walking tour, it may prove appropriate to provide additional plaques and/or wayfinding signs within the area. Phibsborough has a number of plaques paying tribute to persons of interest, including more recently a new plaque denoting the birthplace of Charles Franklin (at 18 Whitworth Rd), Ireland's first international motor cycle racing star. Compiling a detailed list of all existing plaques within the area and making this information publically available should form part of this work. New wayfinding signs have recently been installed at Doyles Corner, Hart's Corner, St. Peter's Church, the Soldier, and at the Royal Canal (Westmoreland Bridge).

(5) Events & Festivals

There is a range of existing events supported by Dublin City Council, which seek to promote arts and culture, some of which are listed below. Exploring possibilities and options to expand these events into Phibsborough is an objective of the Plan. Events of note include:-

Heritage Week: The aim of National Heritage Week is to build awareness and education about our heritage, and thereby encourage its conservation and preservation. As part of this festival Dublin City Public libraries host numerous events and lectures, and in 2014, the Phibsboro library hosted a talk on 'One-Room' libraries by Susan Roundtree, former Dublin City Council architect. Other events nearby were held in the National Botanic gardens and a walk along the Royal Canal from Ashtown to Broom Bridge, the later paying homage to one of Ireland's greatest scientists William Rowan Hamilton, who had a flash of inspiration at Broom Bridge, that led to the equation that helped land a man on the moon!

Dublin Festival of History: The fourth now annual Dublin Festival of History took place from the 23rd September to the 8th October 2016, organised by Dublin City Public Libraries. The festival was set up to help Dublin City Council celebrate and mark significant historical anniversaries. Renowned international and Irish historians are invited to speak at venues throughout the City, in addition to walks, films and writing workshops. The Phibsborough library has played host to a number of talks.

Open House Dublin: Open House Dublin is part of Open House Worldwide, a network of 19 cities on 3 continents, that invites people to explore and understand the value of a well-designed built network. Organised by the Irish Architecture Foundation, (with sponsorship from Dublin City Council & others) the first Open House Dublin was held in 2006, and by 2013 it was attracting 27,000 visitors in a single weekend. Many buildings normally off limits to the general public are open for viewing and events are organized to coincide with visiting times. Open House Dublin has also developed a strong educational programme, which includes an innovative urban design project for young people called 'Place Shapers', and the 'National Architects in School Initiative', encouraging people to think differently about their cities and towns.

Culture Night: An annual all-island event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts. On a dedicated night, once a year, arts and cultural organisations and venues, extend their opening hours and waive any entrance fees to allow for increased access to the public. Special unique events and workshops are programmed for various locations. It is a way of encouraging more people to visit venues and experience culture in their own locality and helps raise the profile of many existing amenities. Venues opened in 2014 included Drumcondra library, Glasnevin cemetery, St. Patrick's College Drumcondra, Croke Park museum, the James Joyce Centre, Club na Muinteoiri Parnell Square and Dublin City Gallery The Huge Lane. It is considered that Phibsborough has numerous buildings and spaces which could be included within this list.

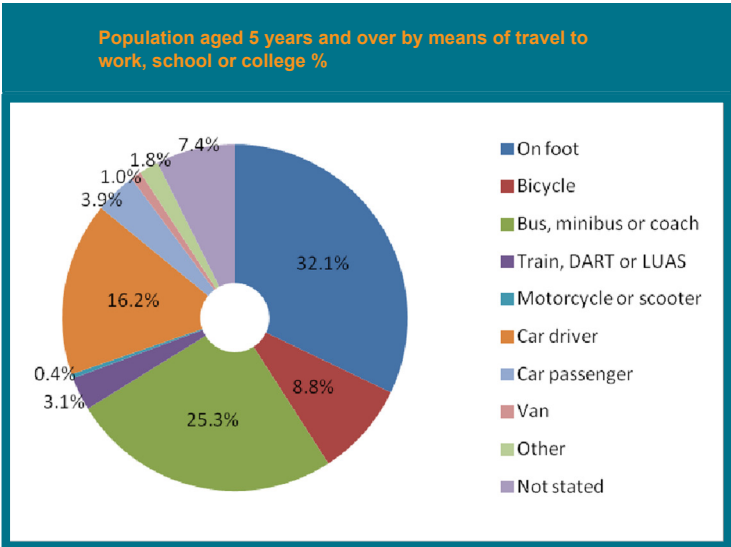




7.0 MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORT

The Phibsborough area both benefits and suffers from its strategic position at the northern edge of Dublin City Centre where three national routes converge, the N1, N2 and N3 national primary routes. In addition a strategic orbital route, the Outer Tangent extends along the North Circular Road, converging with the N2 and N3 at Doyle’s Corner. The result of this important traffic function is a largely congested and car dominated village centre. Realigning the existing environment with the vision for the overall city which is to create an environment that is pleasant, accessible and easy to move about on foot and bicycle and where movement is predominantly by sustainable means represents a key challenge for the area.

By virtue of its location at the edge of the city centre the population of Phibsborough has a predominantly sustainable means of commuting to work/school/ college, with 32% walking, 25% commuting by bus and 9% by bicycle. Maintaining and enhancing bus priority measures in addition to enhancing the public realm for pedestrians and cyclists was one of the key issues addressed by members of the public during the public consultation process.



Walking

Ease of movement within and around the Phibsborough area is vital to building an attractive, safe and user-friendly public realm. In general much of the area is highly permeable with a dense network of largely residential streets. However the presence of the Canal and railway lines, in addition to a number of large blocks of land (Mountjoy Prison, Dalymount Park, Broadstone, and the Mater Hospital), all form obstacles to pedestrian permeability. Exploring options to improve pedestrian safety and to improve linkages is a key element within this LEIP. Options identified throughout the public consultation process included:

- New bridges over the canal and the railway
- Widened footpaths at St. Peter’s School and Westmoreland Bridge (or even a new bridge for the latter);

- Increased pedestrian crossing times and new pedestrian crossings
- Re-examining barriers, bollards and 'islands' at pedestrian crossings, notably at Doyles Corner and Connaught Street.
- Examining provision for "homezones" within residential enclaves.

Cycling

Dublin City has an overall target of increasing journeys by bicycling in the city by 25% by 2020. Work is currently progressing and planning consent has been given for the proposed new pedestrian/ cycle route along the Royal Canal. This new 'Royal Canal Greenway' shall run from the Docklands to Ashtown along the canal bank, with the key objective to provide a premium quality cycle and pedestrian route in order to encourage and promote cycling in the Dublin Region in accordance with the stated objectives of the National Cycle Policy Framework. There are also proposals to run an additional cycle route along the Royal Canal Bank although the design of this route has yet to begin.

Dublinbikes: The provision of the dublinbikes scheme has raised the profile of cycling in the city. It is one of the most successful city bike rental schemes internationally. Within Phibsborough there are currently stations on Eccles Street and Blessington Street, and nearby stations on the North Circular Road, Upper Sherrard Street, Hardwicke Place, and Hardwicke Street. The Grangegorman Development Agency is seeking funding from the NTA to locate a station on or adjacent to the new DIT Campus. It is an objective of this LEIP to seek to extend the dublinbikes scheme further in particular seeking a new station within/ adjoining the Shopping Centre site and possibly next to the Royal Canal.



Public Transport

The National Transport Authority's 'Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2016-2035' is committed to improving transport for the Greater Dublin Area. It sets out how transport will be developed across the Dublin region over the next 20 years and is to be accompanied by an investment plan by the end of 2016. While the provision of public transport infrastructure is outside the remit of this Plan, the proposals by the NTA have the scope to significantly improve access to public transport in the area, improving journey times and reducing demand for car based travel.

Of most imminent benefit is the proposed Luas Cross City line which is due to be operational by the end of 2017, linking the City Centre with Broombridge rail station via Grangegorman along the disused Broadstone rail spur. Stops will be located at Mount Bernard Park and within the cutting connecting Cabra Road to the North Circular Road, with additional stops located just outside the LEIP area at Grangegorman/Broadstone (future stop) and at Constitutional Hill. This new service will significantly enhance the public transport offering within the area, and provide a much enhanced connection with the wider city network. It is also an objective of the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 to extend this Luas line from its terminus at Broombridge to the north of Finglas in the future, where it will serve a new park & ride facility on the N2 National Road close the M50, with the objective of reducing car based traffic coming into the City.

The NTA's strategy also proposes the delivery of a new 'modified' Metro North following the line of the previously approved Metro North scheme but incorporating cost-cutting measures of reduced platforms, fewer stops and vertical alignments. The delivery of this scheme will provide a high speed, high-capacity, high-frequency public transport link between the airport and the City centre, passing through the LEIP area with a stop at the Mater Hospital. Prior to the arrival of Metro North the transport strategy retains the objective of

providing a bus rapid transit (BRT) system linking the City with the airport along Dorset Street.

Existing Rail System: The Maynooth suburban Dublin - Sligo intercity rail line passes through the LEIP area to the north of the Royal Canal. This line provides rail connections to Connolly station and the DART and commuter rail lines along the east coast, accessible at Broombridge and Drumcondra stations. Two double tracked rail lines also converge immediately to the west of Cross Guns Bridge. The southernmost line allows commuter trains between Clonsilla and the new Docklands station, but this service bypasses the area entirely without stopping due to the absence of any stations. There is potential to make better use of the existing rail infrastructure for the residents of Phibsborough through provision of a new station, and there is an objective proposed in the new Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 to seek the provision of a new station at this location. Such a station would also be able to serve the Phoenix Park Tunnel which connects trains terminating in Heuston Station with Connolly station via a three mile line, a section of which runs underneath the Phoenix Park. This opens up possibilities of additional stations being provided on the line which would allow access to the north inner city and city centre to commuters, and would also allow commuters from Kildare to directly connect to the Dart Line.

Traffic Management and Car Parking

Dublin City Council's approach to traffic management in the city seeks to restrict through traffic and calm traffic generally within the city centre giving increased levels of priority for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

The intensity of use of the road network in the vicinity of Doyle's Corner detracts from the amenities for pedestrians and cyclists. As noted above this junction serves an important national and City remit in terms of road network, but this is perhaps at the expense of the local community. It is proposed to carry out a thorough review of this junction following the operation of LUAS Cross City, to determine whether road capacity can be redistributed once improved public transport options are in place. In the interim improvements to the general public domain will be sought to give "cues" to drivers that they are passing through a village centre.



Dublin City Council will continue to implement a policy of car parking in the city that seeks to manage and provide car parking as part of the overall sustainable transport needs of the city. There is little public off-street parking available within the area and the local businesses rely on on-street parking for service and deliveries. On street parking along main routes for local businesses and residents is an important consideration in any proposed rearrangement of the road layout. The desire for on street parking may clash with the desire to improve the facilities for cyclists and public transport.

Mobility Education

While the provision of transport infrastructure is important, DCC recognises the importance of working proactively with communities, schools and business to encourage behavioural change. DCC works in partnership with An Taisce Green Schools throughout the city including the LEIP area to promote walking and cycling to school.

Urban Design Principles

The Design Manual for Urban Roads & Streets (DMURS) offers a holistic approach to the design of urban streets in cities, towns, suburbs' and villages. One of the aims of the manual is to put well-designed streets at the heart of sustainable communities, which will create connected physical, social and transport networks that promote real alternatives to car journeys, namely walking , cycling or public transport. The manual recognises the importance of assigning higher priority to pedestrians and cyclists, without unduly compromising vehicle movement, in order to create secure and well connected places. It is important that any proposals which relate to or impact on urban roads and streets are assessed to ensure that they are consistent with the principles, approaches and design standards set out in the manual.



8.0 KEY OBJECTIVES/ ACTIONS

8.1 Public Realm and Open Space Objectives:

1: Carry out public realm improvements in keeping with the Dublin City Public Realm Strategy, and annually prioritise a list of local areas for improvements, with priority given to the village of Phibsborough.

Other areas which may be worthy of attention:

- The junction of Rathdown Road and Grangegorman Upper at the entrance to the new Grangegorman Campus.
- Space to the front of the former Egan's Cash n' Carry site on the North Circular Road.
- St. Mary's Avenue small green spaces
- Blessington Court – space for children to play.
- St. Peter's Court - open spaces fronting onto the Royal Canal Bank
- Pedestrian link between Connaught Street and Norfolk Road
- ESB substation lands between Phibsborough Road and Royal Canal Bank.
- Land next to the Sunnybank Hotel fronting onto Botanic Road.
(Some of these sites will require engagement with private landowners)

2 Create a new civic space linking the Library to 'the Soldier' denoting an entrance to the Village and an enhanced access and connection to Broadstone Park. As part of this explore options for screening the gable of the old cinema (Des Kelly's).

3. Continue to support the Phibsborough Tidy Towns Committee and Joint Policing Committee, implementing joint schemes where appropriate.

4. Carry out an audit of shopfronts with a view to encouraging appropriate development and enforcing unauthorised development.

5. Carry out an audit of all streets within the area in terms of potential for street trees, and carry out planting schemes accordingly.

6. Expand and enhance Mount Bernd Park:

- a) Liaise with the RPA in relation to the new LUAS Stop at the entrance to Mount Bernard Park, and to improve the access to the park.
- b) Extend the park northwards to the Canal, following agreement with the RPA/CIE, as part of an overall landscaping and biodiversity strategy for the Park.
- c) Provide a bridge over the Canal, linking the park to the wider Canal corridor, subject to agreement with the NTA.
- d) Provide a new nature garden and/or allotments north of the Canal, subject to agreement with CIE.

- e) Provide improved play facilities at Mount Bernard Park
 - f) Monitor and control the spread of invasive species in the park.
7. Maintain the existing community gardens/ allotment sites within the area and explore options to provide new allotments along the Canal where possible.
8. Implement the objectives of the Dublin City Canals Report and this Plan, in association with Waterways Ireland and the National Transport Authority, namely:-
- a) New cycle and pedestrian track along the Royal Canal
 - b) New bridges over the canal, at Mountjoy Prison, Cross Guns Bridge and Mount Bernard Park.
 - c) Development of water sports between the 5th and 7th locks. In particular seek the provision of changing/ storage facilities and appropriate parking arrangements. Spectator seating and enhanced pedestrian crossings are also desirable.
 - d) Provision of fishing pegs along the canal and the stocking of the canal with fish
 - e) Explore the possibility of providing an outdoor education barge with permanent mooring point.
 - f) Enhance linkages to the Tolka Valley Park
 - g) Control and monitor the spread of invasive species.
 - h) Manage this sensitive habitat from a biodiversity perspective.
9. Continue to develop Blessington Street Park and Basin: including
- a) Provide Tea Rooms in the existing DCC depot within the Basin.
 - b) Improve the water quality and biodiversity in the Blessington Street Basin
 - c) Upgrade the railings at the entrance to the Basin
 - d) Upgrade the entrance to the Park from the North Circular Road, and the setting of the 'Soldier', to include new access gates, pedestrian and cycle access and landscaping.
10. Carry out landscape improvements to the Royal Canal Bank, west of Mountjoy Prison. Long term objectives for this site include the integration into the wider redeveloped Mountjoy Prison site and the removal of the Eircom building to allow for streetscape / landscape enhancements.
- 11: Open up Berkley Road Park (part of the Mater Hospital) to the public, with seating and landscaping improvements.
12. Develop a landscaping plan for Great Western Square, to include
- a) Improved biodiversity and planting
 - b) A children's play area
 - c) Seating/park benches.
13. Carry out a public awareness campaign regarding the spread of invasive species.

8.2 Sports and Recreation Objectives:

- 14. Explore opportunities and means of enhancing the sporting facilities including refurbishing the swimming pool at St. Vincent's School.
- 15. Seek to develop the sporting use of the Royal Canal, including water sports, cycling, running and fishing. (sporting infrastructure in association with the canal is identified under Objective 8 above).
- 16. Undertake an audit of existing youth/ community centres with a view to optimising use of existing facilities.
- 17. Organise local play days within the existing Parks.
- 18. Examine the potential for creating play spaces within residential streets.
- 19. Dublin City Council Community, Sports and Recreation Section will actively engage with the local community

to maximise programmes run in local centres and parks.

20. Consider age friendly initiatives suitable for implementation locally; to be delivered via the Dublin Age Friendly Programme.

8.3 Arts, Culture and Tourism Objectives

21. Celebrate the literary heritage of the area, through the provision of a “literary wall” within the Phibsboro Library, and integrate this information into either a stand along literary trail, or as part of a wider tourist trail for the area.

22. Develop a local historical/ cultural / tourist trail for the area, which promotes places of interest, both in map form and as an app for smartphones. This process shall document all existing plaques within the area and examine wayfinding systems. It should link Phibsborough with neighbouring key cultural areas.

23. Provide support to phizzfest and other local community and voluntary groups in securing the delivery of arts and cultural facilities within the area.

24. Explore options of working in collaboration with DIT, axis Ballymun and the emerging Parnell Cultural Quarter, e.g. expand the artistic development programmes run by the axis centre in Ballymun into the Phibsborough/ Mountjoy area.

25. Develop a ‘cultural network’ of cultural organisations such as those emerging at Foley Street and Parnell Square and begin the development of this network through the Culture Night process.

26. Support the City’s arts development programmes in all schools within the area.

27. Carry out a vacant lands audit with a view to informing all landowners of the Vacant Space Scheme.

28. Explore the opening up of buildings / facilities within the area as part of existing events and festivals which run throughout the city, including Heritage Week, Dublin Festival of History, Open House Dublin and Culture Night.

29. Enhance the setting and amenities along the Royal Canal and explore means of developing this amenity as a tourist offering.

30. Help celebrate the sporting heritage of Dalymount Park. This unique attribute shall be explored and developed as part of any plans to develop this site, with consideration given to the provision of a soccer museum/ public information space.

8.4 Movement and Transport Objectives

31. Carry out a review of Doyle’s Corner and the junction of Phibsborough Road and Connaught Street, following the operation of Luas Cross City with an objective of seeking visual and public domain improvements and enhancing pedestrian and cyclist experiences.

32. Review the safety of the existing footpath at Westmoreland Bridge and provide a widened/ new bridge if deemed suitable.

33. Seek to provide additional crossings over the Canal and railway to enhance pedestrian permeability, and use of the Canal bank for both sports and recreation.

34. Explore the feasibility of widening the pedestrian footpath outside St. Peter’s National School.

35. Explore options for the provision of “homezones” / traffic calming measures in residential areas.

36. Support the implementation of the proposed cycle/pedestrian route along the Royal Canal including new bridges over the Canal, and the proposed cycle route along Royal Canal Bank.

37. At a more local level explore the use of the laneways within the area as alternative cycle routes.

38. Provide more secure cycle parking in the area.

39. Support the extension of the dublinbikes scheme throughout the area.

40. Support and facilitate the wayfinding exercise, which is currently underway, and to implement a safety strategy for all pedestrian/cycle routes to include the provision of directional signage and CCTV cameras where appropriate.

41. Support the Green Schools Initiative, and in particular to support the travel targets for the schools, with the ultimate aim of increasing the number of pupils walking, cycling, park 'n' stride, carpooling or using public transport.



9.0 Implementation, Monitoring and Review

In order to implement this Plan, it is the intention to establish a core implementation group, coordinated by the Central Area Office with input from various City Council Departments (Parks, Planning, Public Realm, Roads & Traffic, Arts Office etc.), public representatives and other interested bodies (the composition of which to be agreed by the area committees). This group will seek to prioritise objectives for the year ahead and agree such with the respective Area Committees.

As objectives are targeted various means of engaging with stakeholders and residents may be used, depending upon the scope and extent of the proposals. Some objectives will have a very localised impact, e.g. street trees, to more wider aspirations including the development of a tourist trail, engaging both the LEIP area and wider sector interests.

The focus is on the delivery of a 5-year implementation Plan, with an annual review at year end. While it is acknowledged that some infrastructural objectives in particular, may have longer delivery timescales, the aim is to have all reviews and plans completed by the end of year five.



Comhairle Cathrach
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