

**Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee
for the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount Catchment Area**

**Meeting: Monday 4th December 2023
at 11.00am – 12.30pm**

Venue: Dublin Waste to Energy Facility

Minute

Attendees:

Peter McLoone (Chairperson); Kieran Mullins (DWtE Ltd.); Cllr. Paddy McCartan; Cllr Dermot Lacey; Brian Hanney (DCC); James Nolan (DCC); Eimear McCormack; David Turner.

Apologies:

Cllr. James Geoghegan; Anthony McDonald.

1. Minute of the meeting held on the 7th February 2023.

The minute of the Community Gain Liaison Committee meeting held on the 7th February 2023 was approved.

The Committee noted that since their meeting of the 7th February 2023, they held two grant application assessment meetings in July 2023 and therefore this would be their fourth and final meeting in 2023.

2. Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme 2021.

2.1 Project Status Report

The Chairperson advised that the 28 approved projects in respect of the 2021 Dublin Waste to Energy Projects Grant Scheme were completed and the associated cost centre was closed. In total €471K of the allocated €508K grant funding was drawn down. The Chairperson advised that the remaining balance of €37K would be carried forward and used to fund future Projects Grant Schemes.

3. Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme 2023.

3.1 Projects Status Report

The Chairperson recalled that the total grant funding awarded in respect of the 2023 Projects Grant Scheme was €895K. To date eight grant recipients have drawn down their grant funding to a value of circa €111K. The remaining 23 grant beneficiaries have until the 1st September 2024 to draw down their grant funding.

3.2 Lansdowne FC

The Chairperson informed the Committee that, following their unsuccessful grant application in respect of the 2023 Projects Grant Scheme, he met, at their request, two representatives from Lansdowne FC. The Chairperson recalled that Lansdowne FC purchased the sporting grounds at Claremont road, Sandymount from the YMCA and that their grant application requesting €246,578 was in relation to developing this site.

The Chairperson outlined, to the representatives, the reasons why Lansdowne FC's grant application was unsuccessful on this occasion. The Committee's decision was noted and the Chairperson was informed that the Club would submit a more detailed grant application to the next Projects Grant Scheme. The representatives advised the Chairperson that the objective is to develop the clubhouse and grounds at the YMCA not just for the purposes of developing the game of rugby but also in a way that it would be made accessible to other sports and to the wider community of Sandymount, Ringsend and Irishtown.

3.3 Cambridge FC

The Chairperson recalled that Cambridge FC submitted a 2023 Dublin Waste to Energy grant application seeking €700K in respect of their ambitious clubhouse expansion project. At the Committee's grant application assessment meetings in July, it was apparent that the project phases, timeline and costings together with Club's funding sources were unclear from their grant application.

The Committee agreed to inform the Club that the €700K necessary to undertake and complete the entire project was not available. It was agreed that further clarification was required before a final decision was reached on whether any support could be approved.

The Chairperson advised that in order to seek clarification, some Committee members, including himself, met with representatives from Cambridge FC. Following discussions and further correspondence, the club advised that they would be seeking funding from the FAI and the Sports Capital Grant Scheme and would await the outcome of their application for financial support from these and other sources.

The Club also confirmed that their project consisted of two phases and that in the application they submitted, they were requesting funding in the amount of €100K in respect of phase one only. In addition, the Club provided a detailed breakdown of the costs and clarified the projected timeline in respect of phase one. The Committee members noted that the overall cost of phase one was €150K, that the Club is seeking €100K in grant funding and that the balance of €50K will be funded from the Club's own financial resources.

The Committee recognised that Cambridge FC is a successful, ambitious and motivated Club that is highly visible in the community and very well supported by the local people of Ringsend and Irishtown. The members were extremely impressed by the growth of the Club to date and were keen to support the Clubs progress and development.

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that €1m was available for disbursement in respect of the 2023 Projects Grant Scheme. To date the Committee had allocated €895K in grant funding to 31 community projects; therefore, €105K was still available for allocation to eligible projects.

The Committee members unanimously agreed to award €100K in support of phase one of Cambridge FC's club development project. The Chairperson agreed to meet with Cambridge FC to discuss the outcome of the Committee's decision to approve €100K in respect of phase one of their project and he confirmed that he would follow up this meeting with a letter outlining the terms of the grant approval.

3.4 Neurodiversity Ireland

The Chairperson provided the members with an update in respect of Neurodiversity Ireland's (NI) 2023 Dublin Waste to Energy grant application. The Chairperson recalled that NI were seeking €250K in grant funding to assist them with the purchase of the Tram Shed building in Sandymount.

The Chairperson confirmed that, since the last Committee meeting, NI received a letter from the HSE advising them that they were proposing to purchase in full the Tram Shed building in Sandymount for use by Neurodiversity Groups in the wider Sandymount, Ringsend and Irishtown area.

The letter further advised that the decision by the HSE to purchase the Tram Shed was subject to the HSE's property protocol, capital projects and approvals protocol, inspections and usage and accessibility agreements.

In summary, it now appears that NI will no longer require the refundable grant approved by the Dublin Waste to Energy Projects Grant Scheme to make a deposit to secure the building. However, the Chairperson confirmed that Neurodiversity Ireland were extremely grateful for the Committee's interest and willingness to support in their project.

4. Finance

4.1 Cost Centre Updates

The Chairperson recorded the cost centre reports in respect of the Community Gain Fund. It was noted that a new cost centre was set up in respect of the 2023 Projects Grant Scheme and that €895,027 was transferred from the Community Gain Fund to this account. It was confirmed that on receipt of the correct grant drawdown documentation and the execution of an appropriate Manager's Order all the 2023 approved grant payments would be paid from this cost centre. The Committee were advised that the 2022 contribution from Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd would be received by year-end.

5. Committee Membership

5.1 Community Representatives Membership

The Chairperson stated that the three Community Representatives; Eimear McCormack, David Turner and Anthony McDonald were appointed to the Committee in November 2020 for one two-year term. In accordance with the Committee's terms of reference;

'At the end of their two year term the Community Representative positions shall be publicly advertised and following a nomination and selection process the exiting Community Representative may be reappointed for one successive two year term by the Chief Executive.'

The Committee agreed that the three Community Representative positions would be publicly advertised in Q1 2024 and following the appropriate nomination and selection process be appointed to the Committee thereafter. It was noted that it was open to the three exiting Community Representatives to submit an application if they wished and that they could be reappointed for one successive two-year term.

6. Dates and Venue for Future Meetings

Date: To be decided.

Venue: Dublin Waste to Energy Facility.