

<b>Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee for the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount Catchment Area</b>
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**Meeting: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 11.30am – 12.30pm**

**Venue: Dublin Waste to Energy Facility**

**Minute**

**Attendees:**

Peter McLoone (Chairperson); Kieran Mullins (DWtE Ltd.); Cllr Dermot Lacey; Brian Hanney (DCC); Susan O'Brien; David Turner; Brian Delany.

**Apologies:**

Lord Mayor Cllr. James Geoghegan.

**1. Committee Membership - Community Representatives**

The Chairperson formally introduced and welcomed the new Community Representatives to the Committee. Following a nomination and selection process, Susan O'Brien and Brian Delany were appointed to the Committee in August 2024 and will sit on the Committee for one two-year term. The third Community Representative, David Turner, was re-elected to the Committee and will be serving his second two-year term.

The Chairperson advised that Committee member and Dublin City Council representative, James Nolan, Executive Manager, Environment and Transportation Department, has resigned from DCC to take up a position in Kerry County Council. James will be replaced by another DCC representative in due course.

It was noted that the three elected representatives will be determined and appointed at the next South East Area Committee meeting.

**2. Minute of Meeting 25.03.24 & Matters Arising**

The draft minute of the Community Gain Liaison Committee meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was approved.

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

**3.1 Project Status Report Q3 2024**

The Q3 2024 report in respect of the Dublin Waste to Energy Projects Grant Scheme 2023 was circulated and noted.

The Chairperson recalled that the total grant funding awarded in respect of the 2023 Projects Grant Scheme was €995,027. To date, 27 grant recipients have fully completed their grant-aided projects and drawn down grant funding to a value of circa €855K. The balance remaining for drawdown is €140K.

The Chairperson advised that five grant recipients have yet to fully complete their projects and draw down their grant funding. The Chairperson provided the members with a project update in respect of each as follows:

### **1. Cambridge FC**

To date the club has drawn down €58K of their €100K grant funding and are scheduled to complete their club expansion works by the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

The Club announced that they were awarded €482K grant funding from the Sports Capital Grant Programme. The Club expressed their sincere gratitude for the support, and of course, grant funding they received from Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd and the Committee.

### **2. Ringsend College**

The College was awarded €50K to assist with the refurbishment of a music room, however due to internal issues within the College; the project has been unexpectedly and adversely delayed.

However, it was confirmed that the College is still planning to execute the project and that an update will follow shortly.

### **3. Dublin Central Mission**

The organisation was awarded €23K to assist with the creation of a dementia garden. The contractor is to commence works on the dementia garden in October 2024 with a completion date of the 30<sup>th</sup> November latest.

### **4. The Lir Academy**

They are currently running their 'Theatre for Teenagers' programme in Ringsend College and will be drawing down their €17K grant funding by the end of October 2024.

### **5. Raytown Men's Shed**

The Group has drawn down €4K of their approved €8K grant funding and will complete their project by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

### **3.2 Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)**

David Turner, Chairperson of SAMRA, advised the members that with the €41,820 Dublin Waste to Energy grant funding they received SAMRA has completed their grant aided project and produced their final report 'Sandymount Village Ideas'. A copy of the final report was circulated to the Committee members and David delivered a summary.

David advised that the essence of the Sandymount Village Ideas project is to unlock the village's enormous potential and further develop its relationship with Dublin Bay. The ideas are intended to achieve this through the enhancement of the physical appearance, functionality and experience of the village and its links to the bay, through a series of public realm improvement projects.

David explained that on receipt of the grant, a small SAMRA Subcommittee, including the Chairperson of Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association (STTCA), appointed Grafton Architects, to create this plan of ideas project in September 2023. The Subcommittee steered the project through its various phases, engaging with the Architects through a series of reviews and meetings as they developed their ideas in three distinct phases.

Phase 1: Research and Initial Response – delivered February 2024

Phase 2: Developed Strategy Presentation – delivered June 2024

Phase 3: Final Submission of Village Ideas – delivered August 2024

David informed the Committee that the research phase established that a number of key initiatives would be needed to achieve the ambition of the project. These included:

- The Village: Defining the Entrances to the Village.
- The Green and Seafort Triangle: Enhancing the Civic Heart of Sandymount.
- The Promenade: Enhancing the interface with the Bay Biosphere, improving the amenity of the Prom and exploring opportunities for the Martello Tower.
- Initiatives around surface finishes, planting, ecology and landscaping, signage, culture and heritage

David advised that it was very evident from an early stage in the project that car parking, both short and long term and traffic calming, would be key enablers of a number of the initiatives, particularly in the core of the village. The project has developed proposals concerning these issues, and the Subcommittee has drafted a car parking strategy for consideration by Dublin City Council's (DCC) Traffic Departments and City Planners.

Now that Stage One of the Sandymount Villages Ideas project is complete, David concluded his presentation to the Committee by outlining the next steps for the project.

Stage Two: using the proposed ideas to underpin constructive conversations with various stakeholders, residents, businesses, public representatives, DCC's executive and other statutory bodies.

Stage Three: will involve implementing the preferred way forward in cooperation with DCC, the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee, various stakeholders and perhaps private undertakings, to deliver public realm improvement projects in Sandymount that will enhance the quality of our environment and support community wellbeing.

#### **4. Finance - Funding Available for Next Projects Grant Scheme**

The Chairperson advised that there will be €1m grant funding available to run a Community Gain Fund Projects Grant Scheme in Q1/Q2 2025. The members agreed this timeline and decided to discuss the particulars in further detail at their next meeting.

In addition, the members agreed that in advance of the launch of the next Projects Grant Scheme, the Conditions and Criteria would be reviewed, discussed and upon agreement, updated as appropriate.

**Action:** Administrator to circulate the Dublin Waste to Energy Projects Grant Scheme General Conditions and Criteria to all members.

#### **5. Dublin Waste to Energy Projects Grant Scheme**

Following on from this discussion regarding the Projects Grant Scheme, the members enquired as to whether feedback had been sought from the Community in respect of the running of the previous Projects Grant Schemes and how the Scheme could potentially be developed and improved going forward.

The members were reminded that a request for feedback in respect of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme was issued to 150 individual clubs, organisations, schools, groups etc. in the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount catchment area in April 2023 and a follow up report produced and circulated.

The members were advised that the call for feedback consisted of five questions covering the grant application and drawdown process, communications, benefits of the Scheme and its future implementation and evolution. The questions were to be used as a guide only and further comments, suggestions, recommendations and improvements were welcomed.

The outcome of the survey determined that, overall the Community of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount were satisfied with the running of the Scheme. They were extremely grateful for the Dublin Waste to Energy grant funding and commented on the incredible difference it had made to their individual clubs and organisations.

**Action:** Administrator to circulate the feedback report to all Committee members.

The members considered how the public profile of the Dublin Waste to Energy Grant Funding and Projects Grant Scheme could be further enhanced. It was noted that since 2014, circa €14.3m has been credited by Dublin Waste to Energy Limited to the Community Gain Fund and that this needed to be continually publicised and promoted.

A number of proposals were put forward including the creation and distribution of a regular newsletter and more widespread use of various social media platforms. Perhaps, an event in the local area where the community could meet to discuss the Dublin Waste to Energy Projects Grant Scheme, share information, provide feedback, submit proposals to develop and evolve the Scheme. In addition, it was proposed that a Projects Grant Scheme 2025 launch event could be organised.

The members agreed that these ideas would be considered and developed further at a separate Committee meeting.

## **6. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

**Date:** December 2024, the date will be subject to the Committee members availability.

**Venue:** Dublin Waste to Energy Facility.